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ON SATURDAY
No.23 March 27, 2010

TUNBRIDGE WELLS

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PLUS DON'T FORGET TO PUT ALL YOUR CLOCKS FORWARD ONE HOUR TONIGHT

CALL FOR RAIL FIRM TO REFUND TICKETS

MP says commuters should be repaid for failing service

By **JENNA PUDELEK**

A WINTER of discontent on our railways should be solved by refunding long-suffering commuters, an MP has demanded.

At a debate in the House of Commons this week, the rail minister Chris Mole was told about the sorry state of affairs which have left thousands of commuters fuming over delayed, shortened or cancelled services across west Kent.

Greg Clark, the MP for Tunbridge Wells, demanded action, saying that passengers on the Southeastern services had been facing a "significant deterioration" in services on the Hastings to London line since the end of 2009.

New figures collated by the Tunbridge Wells and District Rail Travellers' Association show that in the first three weeks of February, 115 train journeys were disrupted due to operational problems and eight trains were cancelled.

Mr Clark asked the minister to ensure the train operator Southeastern publishes performance data for the line, which runs through High Brooms, Tunbridge Wells, Tonbridge and Sevenoaks into London stations.

He asked him to consider getting Southeastern to refund season ticket holders if the data proved that performance had been poor.

Mr Clark said pressure should be put on the rail company to ensure passengers are given a refund for the "appalling service" they suffered during the bad weather of December and January – if Southeastern receives compensation from Network Rail.

"I was glad to have the opportunity to have a whole debate with the rail minister there to hear what was going on over the winter and in recent weeks," Mr Clark told this newspaper.

"The minister said he was sympathetic to publishing the figures and I will make sure he does that. It is a ridiculous idea passengers are not allowed to know what's going on with their train line. Services have improved compared to the worst of the winter, but it is still not at the level of quality we expect."

During the debate he spoke about the skeleton service Southeastern provided during the worst of the snow and bad weather, which saw passengers squeezed into only one hourly train.

"The result was chaos, confusion and misery,"

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO

EXCLUSIVE

Confirmed: Bob Dylan headlines Hop Farm Festival

SEE INSIDE FOR FULL STORY

IN TOMORROW'S

ON SUNDAY
TUNBRIDGE WELLS

NEWS

- Will the A21 dualling plans be put in reverse as the scheme is called in for a public inquiry?
- How are car dealers facing up to life after the scrappage scheme?

SPORT

- Two wins from Twickenham and with the chance to avenge a defeat which still rankles, Tonbridge Juddians look ahead to next weekend's crunch Intermediate Cup meeting with Tottonians.

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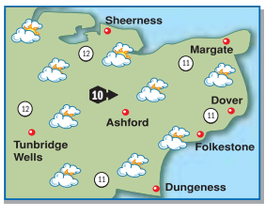
Weather



Today

There will be quite a bit of cloud around at first with a few spots of light rain or drizzle. Turning increasingly bright with a few scattered showers but the risk of a few heavier bursts too. Moderate north-westerly winds. Above average temperatures. Max temp 9-12C (48-54F).

Sun & Moon

Sunrise	5.42am	Sunset	6.20pm	Lighting up times:
Moonrise	3.14pm	Moonset	4.15am	6.20pm to 6.40am

High Tides

	today				tomorrow			
	ht (m)		ht (m)		ht (m)		ht (m)	
Dover	08.46	6.0	21.12	6.3	10.36	6.4	22.58	6.6
Margate	09.41	4.4	22.05	4.4	11.37	4.6	23.53	4.7
St Mary's	02.09	5.0	14.42	5.1	04.04	5.5	16.31	5.5

Around Britain

		°C	°F			°C	°F			°C	°F
Aberdeen	fair	11	52	Edinburgh	fair	11	52	Newcastle	fair	12	54
Belfast	cloudy	11	52	Glasgow	fair	10	50	Norwich	fair	14	57
B'ham	cloudy	12	54	Isle of Man	fair	10	50	Oxford	cloudy	13	55
B'mouth	cloudy	12	54	Leeds	fair	10	50	Southsea	cloudy	12	54
Bristol	fair	10	50	London	cloudy	13	55	S'hampton	cloudy	12	54
Cardiff	fair	12	54	Liverpool	fair	10	50	Southport	fair	10	50
Cork	cloudy	11	52	Manchester	fair	11	52	Swansea	fair	10	50

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TV appeal in hunt for missing man

By **JENNA PUDELEK**
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

THE PARENTS of a man with autism who has been missing since January have taken part in a live television appeal as concerns over his safety grow.

Roger and Dawn Hopson, who live in Crowborough, have urged their son, Piers, to meet them at Tunbridge Wells railway station since his disappearance and offered a £10,000 reward for his safe return.

The 35-year-old, who has Asperger's syndrome, left his care home in St Leonards in East Sussex on January 25 at 2.30pm saying he was going for a walk, but did not return.

There have been unconfirmed sightings of him near Tunbridge Wells station.

His parents appeared on BBC1's Missing Live programme on Tuesday morning to talk about his disappearance.

Police hoped the appeal would throw up fresh lines of enquiry in their investigation. But detectives said on Thursday they were disappointed that nothing new had come to light so far.

"He is very vulnerable," Mr Hopson told presenter Louise Minchin. "He has Asperger's syndrome, which makes it very difficult to communicate with people."

He added: "He would be very unlikely to ask for help. He would stand there expecting people to approach him."

Police said on Wednesday that they had received only one direct call from the public, which was about a sighting of a man in Hove the day before the programme broadcast. However, detectives said he did not fit Mr Hopson's description.

His parents have said that when he visited them he always caught the train from St Leonard's Warrior Square to Tunbridge Wells, where they would be waiting to collect him.

Police have released CCTV footage of the day he went missing that show him walking along Rock-a-Nore Road, in the old town of Hastings at about 4.15pm. On the day of his disappearance, Mr Hopson was not wearing winter clothes.

He is 5ft 7ins tall, of medium build with dark hair. He wears wire-framed glasses and was last seen wearing a grey anorak, dark trousers, an oatmeal coloured jumper with a brown, red and green pattern across the chest and sleeves. He had on medium brown coloured shoes.

If anyone thinks they may have seen Piers please contact Sussex Police on 0845 60 70 999, quoting Operation Airwolf, or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Rail passengers still waiting to see benefit of new timetable

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

he said. "I understand the reason for what happened is that the Hastings line south of Tonbridge was considered to be a branch line and not given the same priority as the line to Tonbridge.

"However, the minister will know, having done his research, as I am sure he has, that there are probably just as many commuters in Tunbridge Wells as in Tonbridge, and the line should not be classified in that way."

Martin Lewis, chair of the rail travellers' association, said during the bad weather there was poor communication. Speaking about the continuing problems passengers faced into February, he said the number of journeys being disrupted were unusually high.

"Performance was very good last year and then the new timetable came in, which was good, but performance nosedived in the first two months," he said. "I think it could have been weather related issues and the maintenance programme needed to be more robust."

This year started with the introduction of a new timetable that would see trains travelling to London every 15 minutes throughout the day and five new peak-time services.

In his debate, Mr Clark said that with a 10 per cent hike in rail fares last January, the improvements were overdue.

However, passengers have not seen the benefits of the new timetable. Mr Clark said one constituent had written to him to say commuters had started to switch to Southern, the neighbouring franchise. The service from Eridge in East Sussex to London Bridge costs £2,268 a year compared to Southeastern's £3,352 from Tunbridge Wells and it was more reliable, the letter stated.

A spokesman for Southeastern said: "The service since December on the Hastings line has not been as good as we or our passengers would want. Recently the service has improved. We will continue to work with Network Rail to make sure this improvement continues."

- ***Join the debate. Email us your views on the rail service to westkent@kosmedia.co.uk.***

Good sports strut their stuff for charity

PERFORMERS and spectators braved the rain and dreary weather to raise more than £600 for Sport Relief in a charity dance event.

Personal trainer Claire Waughman hosted and danced in the spectacle in the Pantiles on Saturday and said she hoped it had inspired passers-by to get active.

Sponsorship for the event in the bandstand involving 15 salsa dancers and three different dance companies raised £444 with spectators donating a further £189 to the Comic Relief spin off, which works to transform the lives of poor and vulnerable people in developing countries and the UK.

Ms Waughman, 25, said: "We had really big crowds watching for a really long time considering the weather. Even though it was raining everyone really enjoyed themselves."

Meanwhile, staff at Town & Country Housing Group raised more than £120 for Sport Relief by wearing sports gear including a variety of shirts, scarves and hats from football teams, and rugby, badminton, cricket and hockey gear. Their colleagues from repairs contractor Connaught coordinated the event.

Fundraisers at Town & Country have also raised more than £1,400 for the Pembury-based charity Hospice in the Weald.

John Ashelford, the hospice's chief executive, thanked them for their efforts, he said: "I am extremely grateful for this support to help us fund our services, and for all the past support you have given to the hospice."

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Walker caught fly-tipper in the act

A FLY-TIPPER has been charged £1,575 for dumping more than one tonne of rubbish in an area of outstanding natural beauty.

Edward Howe, from Tudeley near Tonbridge, was convicted of two counts of fly tipping and two other charges relating to environmental protection legislation.

He dumped builder's rubble, a large quantity of plastic wrapping, polystyrene, timber door frames and garage doors in Dundale Road, Tunbridge Wells.

Mr Howe was caught after a resident walking in the area heard a crashing noise, went to investigate and saw an orange tipper truck dropping its load on a track before driving off.

The track is the only access to houses and a business property and the illegal dumping prevented customers reaching the company and would also have stopped emergency services gaining access.

Investigators found that two companies hired a firm called Edd's Services, of which Mr Howe was the proprietor, to collect and dispose of waste on their behalf.

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council said that no action was taken against the companies because they helped identify and provide evidence to prosecute Mr Howe.

He was convicted of the charges at Sevenoaks Magistrates Court and fined £300 for each offence, ordered to pay £360 costs and a £15 victim support charge.

Dylan's blowin' into festival

EXCLUSIVE

By JON COATES

ROCK legend Bob Dylan will give what is his only confirmed live performance in the UK this year when he headlines the Hop Farm Festival this summer.

It brings to an end weeks of speculation linking the superstar with the slot.

The iconic American singer-songwriter will top the bill of the music festival in Paddock Wood on Saturday, July 3.

Dylan being lined up to headline the event, which was due to be officially unveiled today, is a real coup for festival organiser Vince Power.

The first Hop Farm Festival in 2008 was headlined by another rock legend, Neil Young, and this year's announcement had been eagerly anticipated by music fans.

Dylan is best known for his 60s classics Blowin' in the Wind and The Times They Are a-Changin', which became anthems for the civil rights and anti-war movements in the US.

The rock star, 68, is currently touring Japan and South Korea.

He will start a European tour in May which will end with a single show in Ireland, in Limerick, on Sunday, July 4. But a day earlier he will stop off at the Hop Farm to bring the Saturday event to a fitting climax.

Dylan will be supported by pop folk group Mumford & Sons, blues singer-songwriter Seasick Steve, rock bad boy Pete Doherty and folk singer Laura Marling, with two more acts to be confirmed – including another big name – to be announced next week.

I WANT YOU: Vince Power, left, has signed Bob Dylan to the Hop Farm Festival

Mr Power – former owner of the Mean Fiddler organisation and involved in such festivals as Reading and Glastonbury, said: "I am really excited by having a legend like Bob Dylan playing, following Neil Young in our first year.

"They are just not many acts out there at the moment, so confirming acts has been hard. But with Mumford & Sons, Seasick Steve, Pete Doherty and Laura Marling, I think we have a great supporting line-up."

The music promoter, who founded the Mean Fiddler empire before leaving in 2004 to start Vince Power Music Group, said he has tried to keep the cost of this year's festival as affordable as possible for fans with the recession in mind.

The site off the A228 near Paddock Wood will open at 6pm on Friday, July 2, for anyone wanting to camp. There will be a small bill on the Friday night, which will be announced next week.

Tickets will cost £65 for the Saturday event, including car parking, and another £25 for the two nights camping and Friday bill, which will go on sale this morning.

The site will then open for day ticket holders at 11am on the Saturday, with Dylan due to finish his headline set at 11.30pm.

Mr Power said: "For the third year there will be no sponsorship and branding, and no VIP area. It is a back to basics festival and we are trying to put the emphasis on customers enjoying the music."

Another event is being planned for Sunday, July 4, which will have a different type of bill to Dylan and the support acts on the Saturday. The line-up for this is due to be announced next week. For more details see www.hopfarmfestival.com.

Last year The Fratellis headlined the Saturday night, while Paul Weller topped the Sunday bill. Weekend tickets were sold for £125, or £65 day tickets, with a 20,000 capacity for the two-day event.

In its first year the festival took place on just the Saturday and was topped by Neil Young. The Mighty Boosh put on a comedy-themed event on the Sunday.

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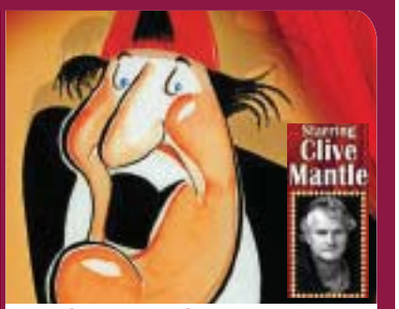

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ASSEMBLY HALL THEATRE Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

New heights for young volunteer

A TEENAGER who helps run Sevenoaks Air Cadets has been named as the area's Young Volunteer of the Year.

The accolade was presented to David MacQuarrie, 16, of Air Training Corps 2158 squadron, at an awards ceremony held at the offices of Sevenoaks District Council in Argyle Road, Sevenoaks on Monday.

The schoolboy, from Bentleys Meadow in Seal, has been volunteering at Sevenoaks Air Cadets for two-and-a-half years.

• *See page 17 for details.*

Nominate those who show pride

DO you know someone who deserves recognition for their efforts in the community?

Then Tunbridge Wells Borough Council wants your nominations for this year's Love Where You Live civic pride awards.

Prizes will be up for grabs for those individuals or groups who have worked hard to improve their surroundings in and around the town.

Full details of the event, including the closing date and how to apply, can be found by turning to our story on page 7.

■ CHALYBEATE Spring will open again for the tourist season on Good Friday.

Water from the spring at the Pantiles will be served by traditionally-dressed 'dippers' to visitors wishing to taste what made the town famous.

The iron-rich water was once said to cure such ills as infertility and obesity – as well as hangovers.

Tourists and residents will be able to visit the spring until the end of September.

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Holidaymakers shun 'staycations' in favour of hotter climes

WISH YOU WERE HERE?:

Places such as Egypt, the Far East

and the Caribbean are again hot with holidaymakers this year

Travel agents buoyed by bookings increase

EXOTIC and far-flung destinations are hot with holidaymakers again, according to travel agents who say business is on the up.

By **JENNA PUDELEK**
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

The 'staycation' was the much-used phrase that marked last summer as people feeling the pinch of the credit crunch chose to spend their time off closer to home exploring what this country has to offer.

But after the coldest winter for nearly 30 years, it seems we're keen to escape to some guaranteed sun with this year's top holiday destinations including Bali, Kenya and the Caribbean.

Mervyn Willard, general manager of Baldwins Travel in Tunbridge Wells, said: "In general we are tending to find we are booking a lot more long-haul destinations than we have in the past in comparison to Europe."

With the pound reaching near parity with the euro, trips within Europe have become much more expensive.

But Mr Willard said the Far East, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore and Bali, were proving popular with holidaymakers and good value too.

"The other area that has been very good is Egypt and the Red Sea resorts for winter breaks. That has been very successful this winter," Mr Willard.

"You can get slightly more for your money in terms of comparative destinations in Europe."

Mr Willard said Baldwins dealt with a lot of holidaymakers looking for luxury and five-star excursions.

He said: "We are beginning to find people are spending again. That can be anywhere in the world, the Caribbean particularly, but we've doing some good luxury breaks within Europe as well. There are definitely signs of recovery."

Gill Cunningham, branch manager at Sevenoaks Travel, said business was "picking up slowly, but surely" with long-haul flights to Australia and New Zealand booked as well as exotic destinations like Borneo and the Azores.

Both travel agents spoke of the popularity of Turkey and Egypt this year.

Ms Cunningham said: "Turkey is very diverse. People are not always looking for a beach they are also looking for culture and different experiences."

Peter Ruck, manager of Baldwins Travel in Tonbridge, agreed.

He said: "Our clients seem to be looking for more experiential holidays rather than just sitting on a beach, they want to get more out of their holiday."

He said that safari holidays to Kenya and Tanzania had been selling well this year. There had also been interest in various cruises.

"I don't know whether it might be because people are becoming more confident with the financial situation. Maybe they have some money they didn't spend last year," he added.

All the travel agents said that their ski seasons had gone well.

"We have had a good ski season. It was up on last year," Mr Willard added.

"The Alps are the most popular still, but we've done a bit of business with North America, the American and Canadian Rockies. It has been a good year. Overall there are signs of improvement and it is certainly better than last year."

• ***Turn to page 14 for details of this weekend's Travel & Leisure Show – the ideal place to book your family holiday this year.***

Kent Downs new Orchid in bloom

THE latest issue of a newspaper highlighting the wonders of the Kent Downs is out now.

The Orchid brings the current news and views on the woodland which forms the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), which stretches up past Sevenoaks.

The Orchid can be picked up free of charge at various outlets, pubs, guesthouses, libraries, restaurants and attractions across the Kent Downs, or read free online by going to www.kentdowns.org.uk.

This edition is themed around the woodland which makes up to 20 per cent of the Kent Downs.

Franchise firm is given top award

A COMPANY which offers kitchen worktop franchises has won a coveted industry award for providing the best marketing support.

Rocksolid Granit (RSG), which is based in Tunbridge Wells, took the top honour in the 2010 Franchise Marketing Awards.

The company's chief operating officer Danny Hanlon was presented with the award at the British and International Franchise Exhibition in Olympia, London.

RSG offers franchises for people to run their own Granite Transformations business selling high quality, slimline, kitchen worktop surfaces.

Since being launched in 2003, it now has nearly 20 showrooms across the UK owned by franchise holders, which it supports with marketing and training.

Noisy neighbour fined £240

A MUSIC fan will have to pay £240 for playing loud music in breach of a council noise abatement notice.

Jason Cook, from Sherwood Rise, Tunbridge Wells, was given the notice after his neighbour complained about the music booming from his home.

But when he continued to turn up the volume on his sound system Cook was brought before West Kent Magistrates Court in London Road, Sevenoaks, by Tunbridge Wells Borough Council's environmental protection team.

He was found guilty of ignoring the abatement notice and continuing to cause noise nuisance to his neighbour and was ordered to pay a total of £240.

Councillor Paul Barrington-King, the council's portfolio holder for sustainability, said: "We hope these cases will make some residents think twice about causing unacceptable levels of noise.

"The complaints we receive about noise are taken seriously and we make every effort to collect evidence and enforce noise abatement notices where they are needed."

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THE INTERVIEW

BY JON COATES

An eggstraordinary job

MEET Claire Goldhill. You may never have heard her name. Or seen her face. But the chances are she has the job of your dreams.

Because the 35-year-old travels the world trying to track down the finest chocolate and confectionary available anywhere.

And she gets paid for it.

From visiting traditional chocolate makers in Belgium and Switzerland to jetting out to the US and Hong Kong in pursuit of a sweet delicacy, Claire Goldhill is a busy woman.

And perhaps no time of the year is busier than in the run-up to Easter.

For she is a product developer for impulse foods for supermarket giant Sainsbury's. What's more, in preparation for Easter next weekend, she will have tasted hundreds of different eggs, bunnies and lollies – all in the name of work and research.

Miss Goldhill, who lives in Tunbridge Wells, said: "People don't realise the work that goes into bringing a chocolate egg or bunny to the shelves.

Good taste

"I work on a 12-month cycle to source the product, work on the packaging and marketing, as well as making sure it has the right ingredients and taste. When I feel it is ready we put the product to a customer panel where it is taste tested by at least 50 people.

"So now I'm already working on our Halloween and Christmas ranges, after spending many months working on the Easter range."

Miss Goldhill expects the new range of hollow chocolate rabbits for all ages to be a big seller for Sainsbury's this Easter. These start at 79p with a small bunny and go up to £5 for a 440g rabbit.

The supermarket has also stocked up on chocolate products that can be hidden around gardens for Easter egg hunts, a tradition in the US which has become popular in this country in the last few years in a similar way to Halloween celebrations crossing the Atlantic.

Miss Goldhill grew up in north London, and studied business and marketing at university in the capital, which is different from the normal food science degree route into product development.

She joined Sainsbury's wanting to become a buyer but "ended up" in product development, with the brief of finding new ranges of crisps, snacks, nuts and chocolates to give families a treat.

Miss Goldhill said: "My job, particularly at Easter and Christmas, is to go over to the States and try and find new products, otherwise supermarket goods will all be the same.

"With confectionery it is very brand dominated, so own brands have to be that bit special, they have to stand out.

"I am doing a European tour from April 11 to visit chocolatiers and confectioners in Belgium and Switzerland to look for ideas for Christmas 2010.

"It can be a dream job but it is not good for you in terms of the products I have to sample. I have to keep fit and look after myself."

Miss Goldhill moved to central Tunbridge Wells two years ago and says she enjoys walking her dog on the common to try and keep in shape, and avoids eating sweets or chocolate outside of work.

But choosing new chocolate products is the favourite part of her job, as she never tires of eating chocolate.

She said: "You can get sick of eating cake or biscuits, but chocolate is different as it makes you feel good emotionally, which is why people are still buying it in the recession."

Her favourite is Swiss milk chocolate, as the ingredients melt in the mouth through the long roasting and preparation of the chocolate beans, which leaves the end product smooth and creamy.

She used this chocolate for the Easter bunnies being sold this year, which countless children will soon be tucking into.

Miss Goldhill said: "When I think about how many people are eating my products on Easter Sunday, it is very satisfying. It is amazing to think millions of people are eating the products I have developed."

Picture: ADRIAN BROOKS/IMAGEWISE

HOP TO IT: Claire Goldhill travels the world tasting chocolate to become Easter treats

Nominate local heroes

By JENNA PUDELEK
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

THE hunt is on for the most community spirited group or individual as the council looks to reward those demonstrating civic pride.

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council's local community action project Love Where We Live has launched a series of competitions and you can nominate those you believe most worthy of reward.

Cllr Catherine Mayhew, deputy leader and portfolio holder for housing, health and well-being, said honours will be given to people who not only improve their area aesthetically, but also who generate community spirit by less tangible means.

She said: "The idea is for people to enjoy, respect and enhance the area of the borough where they live or work. We've done various things such as litter picks and put signs up so people get a sense of where they live.

"We are now launching awards for people who make the biggest and best contribution to improve their part of the borough.

"It does not have to be physical, it is about community well being and good community spirit. From all those things follow pride in where you live and make it a better place."

Cllr Mayhew gave examples such as cleaning up a neglected area and enhancing one by planting flowers.

And this newspaper is getting behind the scheme by encouraging our readers to nominate the people or person they think most deserves to have their efforts recognised.

Adds Cllr Mayhew: "You can make a difference in other ways and generate community spirit through some sort of activity."

There are two categories in the competition including most outstanding contribution, which both groups and individuals can enter.

An award will also be given to an individual who has made the most significant contribution to enhancing the life of people in their community.

Rewards are yet to be confirmed but will be handed out at a ceremony later in the year.

Cllr Mayhew said the idea of the project was to get residents respecting their area and treating it like their own back garden, as something to be made the most of.

"I think you come out of it with sense of a job well done," she added. "There is a lot of good in people and they look to make a positive contribution, but sometimes do not know where to start.

"Some people do not know their neighbours. If lots people get together to plant some daffodils or something they get to know people and might end up having a cup of tea together afterwards."

The closing date for entries is May 14. Application forms are available from the Tunbridge Wells Gateway, local libraries, the Assembly Hall Theatre and Trinity Theatre, or see www.lovewherewelive.co.uk.

PRIDE: Do something for your community

Love Where We Live

Hunt for robber

A MAN used a hammer to open a till and steal money during a robbery at a petrol station.

Police have appealed for information after the incident at the Esso garage in London Road, Wrotham Heath, on Monday at 10.55pm.

The man, described as white and 6ft 3ins tall, had a dark coloured cloth or scarf covering his face. He also took cigarettes that he carried out in a shopping basket, detectives said.

He walked off in the direction of the Royal Oak pub. No one was injured in the robbery.

The man was wearing a waterproof blue jacket with the hood up with light blue jeans and black trainers.

Police would like to hear from anyone who may have witnessed a man of this description in the area around the time of the incident or who may have come across an abandoned shopping basket nearby, call 01732 379217 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

THE MAGIC OF BEING CLOSE TO BIG CATS
W H F is a charity based in Kent working hard to ensure the survival of big cat species. We are an active partner in the European Endangered Species Breeding Programmes and raise awareness and funding for cat projects around the world.

RANGER FOR THE DAY
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Jewellery taken from dog walker

A WOMAN had her earrings and ring stolen during a knife-point robbery in a Wealden village.

Detectives released a computer-generated image of a man after the robbery in Hemstead Forest Car Park in Benenden at 12.15pm on March 10.

As the woman returned to her car after walking her dogs, a man approached her and asked for money, when she said she did not have any, he pulled out a small knife.

He then took her jewellery and walked off towards Cranbrook. Police said the woman was not hurt in the incident.

The man is described as having an unkempt beard that was gingery red in colour. He was wearing a beanie hat pulled down and a khaki green jacket with a hood.

Anyone with information about the identity of this man is asked to call police on 01732 379217 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

Driving on path

A 23-year-old has been charged with dangerous driving after an off-road motorcycle was driven on the pavement.

The man has also been charged with driving without insurance after the incident in West Malling High Street at around 5pm on Sunday. Officers also seized the motorcycle.

He will appear before magistrates in Sevenoaks on Tuesday, April 6.

Community celebrates petition success as bus is reinstated

People power wins back ticket to ride

THE POWER of the people has triumphed after a coach company giant u-turned on its decision to axe a bus service running from a small village into central London, ***writes Jenna Pudelek***.

Campaigners said they were delighted by National Express' decision to reinstate the Lamberhurst stop in its Number 23 daily service from Bexhill in East Sussex to the capital's Victoria station.

More than 200 villagers signed a petition protesting against the decision and the multi-national transport company said it was "impressed by the groundswell of support" for the service.

Protesters raised concerns that elderly people who did not drive or own cars would be hardest hit when the Number 23 was axed on Monday. But by Wednesday, the company had put the brakes on their proposal and reversed their decision.

Lindsay Trew, who organised the petition, said: "I could not be happier and there are many people in Lamberhurst who I know will echo that. I hope more people will now use the bus because lots of people did not know about it. I'd like to thank National Express for listening. We are delighted."

SUCCESS: Lindsay Trew hands the bus route petition to MP Greg Clark

The stop at Lamberhurst was cut due to decreasing passenger numbers with just 69 people using it in 2009, the company said.

A National Express spokeswoman said, "We have been so impressed by the support – we will reinstate the coach service with the hope that more people will use it. We are committed to giving it a try and will review the success of the service after six months."

The decision to reinstate the service came after Greg Clark, the MP for Tunbridge Wells, wrote to the chief executive of National Express. He also met with around 40 villagers last Saturday who handed him the petition to give to the transport boss.

Mr Clark said: "I contacted the chief executive of National Express earlier this month on behalf of my constituents and I'm impressed they've resolved the issue so quickly.

"It just goes to show what can be done when a community pulls together."

National Express said the service would take around 30 days to be reinstated because it needs to be re-registered with the traffic commissioner.

Denis Cruse, chairman of Lamberhurst Parish Council, said: "We are very pleased and grateful to National Express that they have responded to public opinion.

"We are grateful for the help of our MP and the media in publicising this and getting this important service restored."

The loss of the service would have made older people more dependent on others for lifts and it is important that people feel independent, Cllr Cruse said.

Villagers will have to travel to Flimwell or Tunbridge Wells to catch the London bus while waiting for the stop to be reinstated.

Village life just 'too expensive'

By **JENNA PUDELEK** and **MIKE BENNETT**
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

YOUNG people are getting priced out of rural areas due to a lack of affordable homes, leading to a crisis in countryside communities.

A report by the Commission for Rural Communities found that the long-term future of the countryside was under threat because young people were being forced to find homes and jobs in urban areas.

It was based on information gleaned from meetings held in villages nationally – including one in Goudhurst.

Tessa O'Sullivan, a rural housing officer with Rural Kent, said high house prices in affluent areas of west Kent around Tunbridge Wells, Sevenoaks and Tonbridge, worsened the problem for first time buyers.

"The right-to-buy [scheme] has led to a shortage of social or affordable housing and this is especially true in rural areas," she said. "Clearly in west Kent, which has higher house prices than other parts of the county, the situation is exacerbated."

Ms O'Sullivan takes housing needs surveys in villages across the county for Rural Kent, a voluntary organisation that acts as an advocate for rural communities.

She said the need for housing for young people and young families was almost always identified.

Forced away

"If young people cannot afford to rent or buy in the rural areas they have grown up in then they have no choice than to move to areas where they can find more affordable housing; this clearly has a detrimental effect on rural communities," she added.

"Building affordable housing in rural areas is difficult and more flexible planning laws would help to bring forward more developments. Local opposition to rural development can also be a problem."

Dr Stuart Burgess, the Government's rural advocate, came to Goudhurst in November as part of the commission's report published earlier this month.

He said in the report: "Without young people to provide a work force, rural economies are unable to fulfil their potential and rural communities can go into a decline."

The situation appeared to be made worse in Lamberhurst after National Express' decision to axe its service from stopping in the village en route to central London. But, the company this week reversed its decision after a string of complaints. Retaining such services is seen as vital to ensuring young people remain within the communities in which they grew up.

RURAL IDYLL: Young people are being increasingly priced out of the countryside

With the number of pensioners living in the countryside set to increase by a million over the next decade, concerns have also been raised that areas will struggle to attract workers needed to care and support the ageing population.

Young people on modest incomes, such as health carers, are increasingly priced out of villages and small market towns by the wealthy relocating to the rural idyll.

The National Housing Federation predicts that by 2020 pensioners will make up a quarter of the rural population and that one in three will be living alone, with many becoming increasingly isolated if key services and amenities continue to disappear.

Goudhurst and Kilndown Parish Council clerk Anthony Farnfield, said: "We have an action plan for affordable housing in the two villages and our survey identified the need for 10 homes in Goudhurst and five in Kilndown, but like everywhere else the problem is finding suitable land in the parishes.

"My council would also like to see policies relaxed to allow the development of farm buildings for both homes and local industry to keep jobs in the rural areas."

Training scheme is just the ticket for town's wardens

TUNBRIDGE Wells Borough Council has won an award for its training of parking wardens.

Along with Phoenix Commercial Collections, the local authority scooped the 2010 Training Award for British Parking at a ceremony at London's Intercontinental Hotel.

The organisations were praised for creating a more cost-effective practice by cross-training the other's staff.

Cllr Paul Barrington-King, portfolio holder for sustainability, said: "This award demonstrates the council's ability to work in partnership with organisations to deliver excellent customer service and achieve a positive outcome that benefits the community."

RingGo pay by phone parking, which has been offered in Tunbridge Wells since August last year, also won an award in the environment category for its Carbon-Metered Parking service.

The British Parking Awards were launched in 2002 and are supported by The Parking Association (BPA). They recognise best practice, design and enforcement.

• What do you think? Are the town's parking warden's among the nation's best? And do you use the phone parking system in place? Let us know. Email westkent@kosmedia.co.uk or write to: The Editor, Studio 6, Sussex Mews, The Pantiles, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN2 5QJ.

Kent Highway Services

For information and advice on travelling in Kent, go to www.kent.gov.uk/highways

For all our Traffic Regulation Orders, please go to page **97**

Did you spot car in statue theft?

A STATUE has been damaged as it was stolen from the garden of a house in a village near Sevenoaks.

Officers have appealed for information about the theft from a home in Dux Lane, Plaxtol last Monday at around 3.40pm.

The statue is approximately 3ft high and of a cherub sitting cross-legged on a sphere and playing a mandolin.

A car, possibly an older style Vauxhall Corsa in silver/grey, was seen parked suspiciously outside the address. Anyone with any information should contact police.

Driver trapped as car overturns

A WOMAN suffered a terrifying orderal after being trapped in her car after it flipped over on a country road.

Police were called to the accident in Bedgebury Road, Goudhurst, just before 8am on Tuesday, March 23.

Officers found a car that had overturned, trapping the female driver inside the vehicle for a short time.

She was then able to get out of the car but had escaped injury.

No other vehicles were involved in the incident.

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THE MOTORISTS' NO.1 CHOICE FOR CROSSING THE CHANNEL

Review reveals 25-day-old Tiffany's death was 'preventable'

Agencies were told twice of danger to baby killed by dad

By **JON COATES**

jon.coates@kosmedia.co.uk

AN OFFICIAL inquiry into how a newborn baby was killed by a father with a history of violence and child cruelty has concluded her death was "preventable".

A serious case review found two opportunities to stop Christopher Sellman, 24, from killing his 25-day-old daughter, Tiffany Sellman Burdge, were missed by social services and health professionals.

A relative had alerted a health visitor and a social worker that Sellman's partner was pregnant, but on both occasions the information was not logged or passed on as it should have been.

If it had been, the review, published last Friday, said it was probable that Tiffany would have been taken into care as soon as she was born, preventing her death.

The failings of the agencies involved took place despite child protection systems being tightened in the wake of the Baby P scandal, which saw 17-month-old baby Peter Connolly suffer sustained abuse at the hands of his mother, her boyfriend and the boyfriend's brother in Haringey, north London, despite several visits by social workers.

Tiffany suffered a fractured skull the first time she was left in the care of Sellman at the flat he shared with her mother Pamela Burdge, 24, in Greggs Wood Road, Tunbridge Wells.

A CT scan at the Kent and Sussex Hospital in the town revealed bleeding on the brain and the baby died at a specialist hospital in London hours later on November 1, 2008.

Despite denying harming his daughter, Sellman, of The Hurst, Tonbridge, was found guilty of her manslaughter earlier this month after a trial at Maidstone Crown Court.

After the death, Kent Safeguarding Children Board commissioned an independent review of the systems in place in protect youngsters in the county.

The board is made up of senior representatives from all of the agencies involved in child protection in Kent and monitors the effectiveness of the systems in place.

The review aimed to see what lessons could be learned from any failings in the way social services and the health authorities worked together, so the systems could be improved.

The serious case review published last Friday was conducted by an expert from the NSPCC.

It revealed that family members had twice sought to alert child protection agencies that Miss Burdge was expecting a child with Sellman, due to his previous conviction for violence and caution for child cruelty, and her troubled childhood.

The family members first raised their fears with a health visitor, but this information was not successfully passed on to children's social services. The female visitor left a message for a social worker to call her back, which did not happen.

The second time, the relatives directly told a social worker, who was not actively involved with Sellman and Miss Burdge, but she failed to log this warning.

PROBE GOES ON INTO JUST HOW BABY COULD DIE

Services failed to heed words of warning

VIOLENT MAN: How we broke the story last week after Sellman (right) was found guilty

The review concluded: "A number of factors, primarily but not exclusively relating to Mr Sellman, meant it was highly predictable that Tiffany would suffer physical abuse/neglect.

"Many children are at high risk of physical abuse/neglect, but only a fraction die as a result of this. Knowing exactly which will die is not possible due to the inherent unpredictability of human nature.

"Whilst Tiffany suffering physical abuse/neglect was highly predictable, her dying as a consequence of this was not.

"The identification of Mr Sellman as the father and the extent of Miss Burdge's childhood problems would certainly have led to a multi-agency pre-birth assessment and, in all probability, care proceedings and action to protect Tiffany as soon as she was born.

"Had these connections been made Tiffany's death might well have been averted.

"A number of opportunities to do this were missed within children's social services and health agencies, and it is a sad conclusion of this review that her death was preventable."

Human error

The review recommended a number of ways of improving child protection services in Kent, including modifying the training given to agency workers to stress the vulnerability of infants to abuse, the fact that children are not safe when subject to care proceedings and the "importance of listening to non-professionals who raise concerns".

Rosalind Turner, Kent County Council's managing director of children, families and education, which includes social services, issued a public apology, a day after the verdict of the court case, for the experienced social worker in failing to log the warning from Sellman's relatives.

She said: "This was an isolated example of human error. Kent County Council deeply regrets that this has occurred."

Julie Hunt, director of nursing and quality for NHS West Kent, for which the health visitor worked, today said: "All of the staff of NHS West Kent wish to express our deep sympathies to the family of Tiffany Sellman Burdge, who was the victim of a tragic crime.

"The serious case review into Tiffany's care found that Kent's systems for safeguarding children are robust.

"However, the report concluded that her death was preventable and we at NHS West Kent have studied the findings of the review to ensure that we learn lessons from this tragic case so that we can better protect vulnerable children in future.

"We acknowledge there were opportunities to share information and act upon it and that we did not take those opportunities as effectively as we could. We take this very seriously and have taken immediate action to ensure that information is shared as well as possible."

She added: "The staff of NHS West Kent are committed to working with all appropriate agencies to protect the health and well-being of children, and we are determined to learn and act on lessons from this case to help prevent future incidents."

Flo Panel-Coates, Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust's director of nursing, said: "We are very sorry that something more could have been done, as the report has shown, to help avoid these sad and tragic events.

"The trust has looked at every area of its involvement in this case and has introduced the two recommendations made in the report.

"Part of this learning has been to implement a new family background questionnaire that is now completed at the start of every woman's antenatal care. We see this as a positive move that can be carried out sensitively and at the same time help in flagging up potentially unforeseen risks.

"We are also working closely with all agencies involved in this case to ensure any joint lessons that can be learned, have been learned together. For example, the trust now runs combined training with NHS West Kent for midwives and health visitors on identifying risk.

"As healthcare professionals the welfare and safety of our patients is of paramount importance. We will continue to do all we can to protect our patients when they leave our care too."

Need a different platform? You'll have to take the train

A DISABLED woman was told to take a 30-mile round trip by train just to get to the opposite platform of a railway station, ***writes Jon Coates***.

Julie Cleary, 53, who has been confined to a wheelchair since the age of 12, had been planning to use a new £2.8 million lift at Staplehurst to get out of the station after a day trip to London.

But after arriving at the station at 8pm she was told she could not use it because of "health and safety" as staff had gone home.

She was left fuming as no one had warned her that the lift would not be operating on her return when she bought a ticket to London earlier in the day.

Helpline

As she needed to cross the tracks to get to the station exit, which was 15 to 20 yards away, she called the station helpline.

To her surprise she was advised to get a train from Staplehurst to Ashford International station, some 15 miles away, and then get another train back to end up on the right platform.

Miss Cleary, who has been a paraplegic since suffering a spinal aneurysm when she was 12, was told this was her only option as the new high-tech lift could only be used when the station was manned.

But not wanting to take a train to the busy international terminal in Ashford, she called her family in the village of Staplehurst for help. Her son and brother-in-law rushed down to the station and carried her up and down the steps in her wheelchair, so that she could use the exit on the opposite platform.

She complained to her MP Ann Widdecombe, the Conservative member for Maidstone and the Weald, who took up her case with Southeastern trains.

Miss Cleary has now received an apology from the rail operator, as well as £30 of rail vouchers.

A spokesman for Southeastern trains said the lift had been opened last November as part of an Access for All scheme to help those in wheelchairs and with buggies to get across the tracks.

He said since then the lift has only been operated when the station was manned for safety reasons and to stop it being vandalised.

The spokesman added: "We are sorry the passenger had a frustrating experience at Staplehurst. When the lift opened at the end of last year it was the intention that it would be open 24 hours a day once additional work had been completed.

"Until finished, posters are in place saying the lift will only be open while the station is staffed.

"This work is nearly finished and the lift will be fully operational 24 hours a day within the next couple of weeks."

Find more news and sport updated daily online
www.kentnews.co.uk

Branch out and help tend trees

VOLUNTEERS are needed to help look after a woodland area on the outskirts of Tunbridge Wells.

Hargate Forest provides extensive views across the Weald and supports a wealth of plants and wildlife, but it needs people who can spare a few hours a month to help maintain it.

On the last Sunday of every month the BCTV charity, which oversees the Weald Forest Ridge area containing Hargate Forest, and the Woodland Trust are inviting people to join conservation days.

Anyone interested should meet at the entrance on Broadwater Down road, two miles south of Tunbridge Wells on the A26, at 10am this Sunday, March 28. Wear clothes and footwear for outdoor work during the three-hour session. Tools, training and tea will be provided.

For more details call Warren on 07740 899678 or email w.young@btcv.org.uk.

Driver fined for using her phone

A WOMAN was given three points on her licence and fined £175 for using a mobile phone while driving a car.

Becky Marrion, 27, of Southfield Road, Tunbridge Wells, was sentenced at Sittingbourne Magistrates Court.

She was caught driving a Vauxhall Corsa while using a mobile phone in Lime Hill Road, Tunbridge Wells, on August 12, last year. Marrion will also have to pay prosecution costs of £100.

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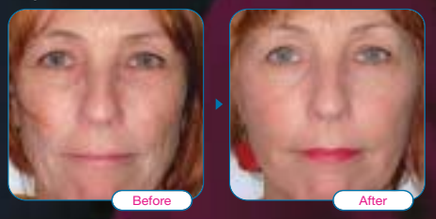
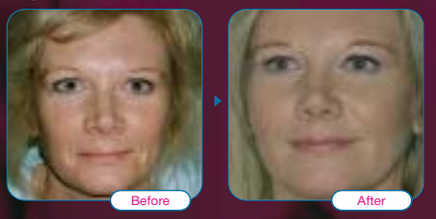


Courtesy of Dr David Evans

46 year-old woman. **3 treatments.**



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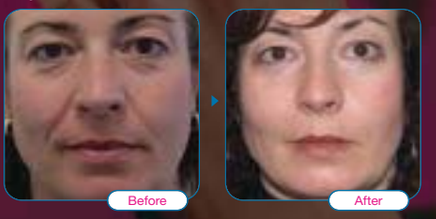
39 year-old woman. **3 treatments.**



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Stone-throwing puts drivers' lives at risk

By **JON COATES**
jon.coates@kosmedia.co.uk

MOTORISTS have been urged to help crackdown on yobs hurling missiles at cars from road bridges before a victim is seriously injured or killed.

A brick was dropped on to the windscreen of a car travelling through Dunton Green on the M26, near Sevenoaks, last week.

The male driver saw three people on the bridge above the motorway, but could not see them clearly as the lighting was poor.

He escaped uninjured but the police have warned the outcome of a brick being dropped on to the windscreen of a moving car could have very serious and potentially fatal consequences. They want to hear from anyone with information about the attack.

This was the latest shocking incident in an escalating problem affecting all road users.

New research shows that one in five motorists in the south east have suffered from a missile hitting their vehicle.

Seventy-five per cent of road users in the region said they had seen youths throwing objects into the road during the last five years. Yet 89 per cent of motorists said they had not reported the incidents to the police.

Seven out of 10 drivers admitted to worrying about driving under bridges when people are on them, and 73 per cent called for tougher penalties for the crime, with prison sentences seen as the only option when injuries are caused.

DANGER: Missiles thrown from bridges can do serious damage to cars and drivers

Windscreen firm Autoglass commissioned the independent research. It has called for road users to stop turning a blind eye to yobs throwing missiles at cars from bridges.

Neil Doggett, managing director of Autoglass, said: "We fix thousands of windscreens every day and so we see first-hand the consequences of the actions of these mindless yobs, which is why we commissioned the report to find out exactly how much of a problem this is.

"Parents can also help reduce this risk by talking to their youngsters about these activities and making them aware of how serious the consequences can be.

"However, the main way to reduce and uncover these hidden crimes is for drivers to report all incidents to the police and for them to record these accurately and act on them – together this will save lives."

Kate Gibbs, a spokeswoman for the Road Haulage Association, said: "This is a problem that needs to be addressed as a matter of urgency.

"We hear of more and more cases of vehicles being targeted. We need to see action taken to keep road bridges and their access roads clear of potential 'ammunition'.

"If a car is hit by a brick being hurled from overhead the effects can be extremely serious and in some cases fatal. If the driver of a heavy goods vehicle suffers the same crime, the results can be catastrophic."

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Court date set for returning to store

A 27-year-old has been charged after he returned to a supermarket in Swanley against the orders of police.

Officers said they received a number of calls about the man, who was allegedly behaving in an anti-social way around Asda.

The man was taken home by officers and a 'direction to leave' was given. This can be given where someone's presence is likely to contribute to alcohol-related crime or disorder. It can stop the person returning for up to 48 hours. He breached the direction and will now appear before Sevenoaks magistrates this coming Wednesday.

Upside down car

A MOTORIST was taken to hospital with minor injuries after his car overturned and careered off a road into a field.

Police were called to the road crash on the A25 Brasted Road, near Westerham Golf Club, last Saturday, March 20, just before 7pm.

Officers found a red Citreon Saxo on its roof in a field at the side of the road. No other vehicles were involved.

A male passenger was taken to hospital with minor injuries. The driver escaped unhurt.

Youths arrested

FOUR young men were arrested on suspicion of causing criminal damage after a group of youths were seen kicking parked cars.

Police were called by concerned members of the public to Quarry Road in Tunbridge Wells on Monday, March 22, at about 8.20pm.

Police officers on patrol in the area arrested four young men, aged 17 to 22, on suspicion of criminal damage.

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Discover your dream holiday at the Travel and Leisure Show

THOUSANDS will flock to the coast this weekend to take advantage of the deals on offer at KOS Media's third annual Travel and Leisure Show.

Cruise lines, ferry companies and representatives from the county's biggest tourist attractions will be on hand at Sunday's event, between 9.30am and 4pm at the Dover Cruise Terminal.

Last year's show was a huge success, with more than 4,000 visitors cramming into the venue to find out more about the attractions available on their doorstep as well as those on the other side of the Channel and beyond.

Liz Hare, events manager for KOS Media – publishers of this newspaper – said this year promised to be the best yet.

She added: "After two successful years the show has become the biggest of its kind in the region.

"With the wide variety of local tourist attractions, cruising holidays and many other leisure opportunities, it provides a great day out for all the family.

"In previous years many visitors have actually booked their holiday at the show itself or taken advantage of other exclusive show offers."

As well as the large number of companies exhibiting at the event, there will also be a competition to win a two-week cruise courtesy of Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines.

There are 31 other fantastic prizes to be won, including an overnight stay with dinner at Canterbury's Abode Hotel, a return Channel crossing provided by Norfolkline, and a family membership to the Kent Wildlife Trust.

Children's entertainment, a licensed bar and refreshments will also be available.

Admission and parking are free but visitors can beat the queues by registering for fast-track entry.

For more information see www.thetravelandleisureshow.co.uk or call Liz Hare on 01303 817172.

NHS chief payoff decision could be months away

By **ANNA WHITE**
anna.white@kosmedia.co.uk

THE shamed former health boss at the centre of a superbug scandal will have to wait to learn the outcome of her appeal for £250,000.

Rose Gibb was the chief executive of Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust when two outbreaks of Clostridium difficile led to the death of 90 patients.

Since she stepped down in October 2007, Ms Gibb has been embroiled in a legal battle with her former employer after it refused to pay her an agreed severance sum of £250,000.

But her fight came to a temporary end when the Court of Appeal reserved judgement after a two-day hearing earlier this month – which could mean a ruling might not be made until after the upcoming General Election, expected to be held in May.

The former chief executive won the right to appeal after a High Court judge ruled against her attempt to sue Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust for breach of contract last year.

Ms Gibb resigned just days before a damning Healthcare Commission report was published in October 2007, which revealed poor hygiene, infection control methods and ineffective leadership was to blame for 1,176 patients developing C.diff between 2004 and 2006 at Maidstone, Tunbridge Wells and Pembury hospitals.

Court papers show that when Ms Gibb learnt she was being forced out from her job she originally aimed for a severance package of £300,000, which was then reduced to £250,000.

At the time of the scandal, Health Secretary Alan Johnson stopped the trust giving Ms Gibb the six-figure payout. She received £75,000 – half of her salary as chief executive.

During the two-day appeal hearing, which began on March 17, the judges closely investigated the agreement Ms Gibb had signed to secure her payout and whether the NHS Trust had the power to offer such a deal.

According to the Health Service Journal, Lord Justice Rimer questioned why the Trust has paid money in lieu of notice but not the usual amount of any employment tribunal award. The judges also considered how the Trust might have benefited from its former boss agreeing to a confidentiality clause in the contract.

WAITING: Rose Gibb wants £250,000

Lord Justice Sedley said: "She was banned from any public criticism of the Trust. It was not inconsequential. It was of very real benefit to the Trust."

One of the grounds Ms Gibb had won her appeal against the Trust on was claims of "unjust enrichment", but Jane McNeill, QC, who is representing the NHS Trust, argued that there was no valid proof of this.

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Putting the Fizz into a real Beauty...

CLARE GRANT takes a look at a production driven by two people whose lives were transformed courtesy of the Eurovision Song Contest

A GROUP of talented young actors from Sevenoaks – supported by former Bucks Fizz member Cheryl Baker – will bring to life Disney's Beauty and The Beast at Sevenoaks' Stag Theatre.

The company behind this romantic show about love blossoming in an unlikely place is Bullfrog Productions, which last year delighted audiences with A Chorus Line at the Royal Victoria Hall in Southborough.

Jill McGrogan, the driving force behind the group, says: "It's full of Disney songs – Be Our Guest and Belle are the ones that are well-known."

One of Bullfrog's aims is to provide musical theatre experience to its students.

She says: "Disney has released shows in musical form and some of them are made specifically for juniors, but Beauty and the Beast is a full adult performance. It gives the students real experience."

The junior performers – the youngest are just six – will be playing alongside Cheryl Baker, who is taking the role of Mrs Potts, the Beast's housekeeper who has been transformed into a teapot.

Cheryl is well known for being a member of Bucks Fizz, the band that won Eurovision in 1981, but she also has many years of presenting and acting experience. Her own twin daughters will join her on stage as the Silly Girls.

"Cheryl Baker gives her services to support the Stag and to support the students," says Mrs McGrogan. "And we were lucky to get Stuart Boother as Gaston – he played Jesus in Jesus Christ Superstar and Montparnasse in Les Miserables.

"We have kids who have come through and gone on to college and we put these performances on in the holidays so they can get involved.

"Beast is played by Sam Harrison-Baker, who is studying at Guildford School of Acting."

His butler Lumiere is played by Adam Hoskins, who is at Chichester University studying the performing arts.

Mrs McGrogan's daughter Holly has followed her into the business: "She plays Belle. She finished vocational training at the Centre for Performing Arts last June, specialising in dance."

This contact with professional performers is beneficial for the students: "The kids in the youth group have to up their game," says Mrs McGrogan.

"Our adult performers have honed their skills over years on the professional stage, and I think it's very useful for the children to be in that atmosphere."

The experience can help teach the language of the stage: "We find that someone directing will use that terminology with the professionals but will have to explain it to the children. There's also the etiquette of not talking backstage and looking after their costumes. There's a whole lot of experience and stagecraft that they can soak up without realising it."

Mrs McGrogan, who, when known as Jill Shirley, managed Bucks Fizz, is glad to use her understanding of the entertainment industry to support others: "Nothing gives me more pleasure than when one of the parents emails me and says they've got this job or that job. That's the real reason behind Bullfrog; to further people at the beginning of their profession.

"We often get parents come up to us and say 'How can I progress Sammy's career?' and we know who they should be going to – agents, or performing arts colleges."

Mrs McGrogan has herself experienced the highs and lows of a showbiz career: "I was in a group called Rags. We were a singing group and we were put in for Eurovision and we were tipped to win."

But it was 1977, the year of the cameraman's strike. With TV blacked out, the domestic heats went out on radio instead of TV, and the audience never got to see Rags performing Promises Promises.

Says Mrs McGrogan: "There was a bit of a gimmick in our song – we had these cloaks which we took off."

This choreography was lost on the jury, and another song went through instead – Rock Bottom. It came second to France.

But the story has a happy ending: "After we'd broken all our hearts, we went to the World Song Festival in Tokyo, and we won," says Mrs McGrogan.

And what about her other, more positive Eurovision Song Contest experience? If that costume ripping trick sounds familiar, it's because Bucks Fizz had a go with it four years later when they won Eurovision with Making Your Mind Up.

"It was such a fantastic night," says Mrs McGrogan. "It was so tense right down to the last vote. That was just a wonderful night. We won it and everybody's lives changed overnight. We were either taking off or landing every three days because Making Your Mind Up was number one all over Europe."

Back to the present, Mrs McGrogan has grand plans for the spring and summer. The youth group will be putting together a production of Fame in two weeks at The Stag Theatre, and later in the summer the group will put on a musical theatre showcase.

• Beauty and The Beast is at the Stag Theatre, Sevenoaks on Wednesday, April 14, at 2.30pm and 7pm. Tickets are £12 for an adult and £10 for concessions, with a £35 family ticket. To book call 01732 450175. For more information about Bullfrog's youth theatre activities, see www.bullfrogproductions.co.uk or call 01342 322411.

FANCY A CUPPA: Cheryl Baker as Mrs Potts, below is Holly McGrogan as the bookish heroine Belle in the yellow dress from the Disney cartoon

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Kent Police join colleagues from other forces in exercise aimed at eliminating the

A restraining hand for long arm of the law

IN FORCE: Police officers and vehicles make their way to the mock demonstration site

THE terms 'heavy-handed' and 'aggressive' will forever be linked with the way Kent Police handled the now infamous Kingsnorth Climate Camp of August, 2008.

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

Much continues to be said about how poorly managed the 10-day demonstration was, and how angry the anti-coal demonstrators were at what they saw as a breach of their right to protest.

It should therefore come as no surprise that the force – eager to avoid yet another public relations nightmare – has placed a new emphasis on being friendly to the public, as was demonstrated at last week's public order exercise at an "undisclosed military location" in the Kent countryside.

And despite claiming the training day was based on similar clashes that took place at Ratcliffe-on-Soar power station in Nottinghamshire last year, it was obvious valuable lessons have also been learned from Kingsnorth.

Assistant Chief Constable Andy Adams, who oversaw the exercise, said: "We tried to paint a scenario that allowed the officers to understand that the public has the right to a peaceful protest and one that allowed them to open a dialogue with the protestors, or at least try to.

"We are representatives of the public and we need to acknowledge that. If the public feel they have a need to protest, they should be treated no differently than our parents or our children. Opening up a dialogue with people allows you to negotiate with them and understand them."

Attended by about 150 police officers from six forces, it was clear that those who took part in the training exercise had received clear instructions to be polite yet assertive with the protestors, and to use force only as a last resort. In fact, there was little to get excited about as officers chatted with the 'demonstrators' – really a group of about 100 recruits from the Kent Police College in Maidstone – asking them where they had come from, but never once why they were there.

PROTEST TARGET: The 'power station'

There was also no sign of the stop-and-search tactics that had angered so many innocent environmentalists at Kingsnorth.

ACC Adams said: "In terms of opening a dialogue with the protestors, I think the day went extremely well.

"It allowed us to work on some of the recommendations made in the report by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary [which followed the Kingsnorth Climate Camp], such as making sure there is a very clear command and control in place.

"It was also very clear about people's right to protest and that officers should only ever arrest somebody if a law has been broken."

Officers who took part in the training exercise were told beforehand that their ultimate goal was to prevent the protestors gaining access to the 'power station', which was 'played' by a breezeblock hut.

The scenario involved demonstrators from two separate campaign groups attempting to

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mistakes of Kingsnorth Climate Camp

COP OUT: Protestors – in reality recruits from Kent Police College – play their part

gain access to the site from different directions, with the police having to make sure they were in the right place at the right time to prevent them.

Dog-handlers and mounted officers were also present but did not take part. Aside from some slight pushing and shoving, the officers had relatively few problems to contend with.

However, ACC Adams said it was still a valuable experience.

He said: "What you have to ask yourselves is, did the protestors equip themselves well enough to give the police a challenge? I think they did. They were certainly vocal enough and organised enough, and capable of posing a challenge regardless of how many of them there were.

"The 'protestors' are all ambitious recruits and this gave them the opportunity to find out what a protest looks like and also an opportunity to see how their colleagues might react."

HIGH MINDED: One 'protestor' locked himself to a tripod in a bid to test officers

DEDICATED: Eleven young people were recognised at the council awards ceremony

Soaring to success

A TEENAGER who helps run Sevenoaks Air Cadets has been named as the area's Young Volunteer of the Year.

David MacQuarrie, 16, who volunteers at Air Training Corps 2158 squadron, was given the award on Monday.

The Cadet Sergeant has been volunteering with the corps for two and a half years.

In being nominated the schoolboy, from Bentleys Meadow in Seal, was described as a "strong, determined, confident young person who has shown incredible commitment, attending every possible activity for the cadets and using his skills to lead and inspire younger members".

The two runners-up in the annual award scheme run by Sevenoaks Borough Council were Joshua Abrahams, 15, of West Kingsdown, who volunteers at the Pop In sessions, and Helena Silver, 17, from Sevenoaks, who volunteers with VSU Youth in Action.

Mr Abrahams has been volunteering at the Pop In sessions held by St Edmund's Church in West Kingsdown on Saturday mornings for six months. He started attending as part of a Duke of Edinburgh's award, but has continued helping out when this finished.

Pop In events allow residents to sit down with a hot drink and chat to other people.

Miss Silver, from Sevenoaks, volunteers for the Screamers after school club, the VSU youth committee and Rockdale Nursing Home, all in the town where she lives. She has been helping out for the last four years.

The awards aim to showcase the commitment and achievements of young volunteers from across the Sevenoaks district, and were hosted by council chairman, Cllr John Lankester at the council offices in Sevenoaks.

A total of 11 young people from Crockenhill, Edenbridge, Hextable, Sevenoaks, Swanley and West Kingsdown, who had all been nominated, were present at the awards.

The winner received £100 in high street vouchers, with another £200 going to his nominating organisation. The runners up each received £50 in high street vouchers, with £100 to their nominating organisations.

The awards, now in their fourth year, aim to raise the profile of volunteers aged 14 to 18 who have shown commitment and achievement, good leadership, innovation and creativity when helping others. These were nominated by members of the public.

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Cream of Celery & Stilton Soup (v)
Fillets of Plaice with lemon butter & prawns, broccoli & hand cut fries
Slow Cooked Belly of Pork crackling, honey roast pear, red wine jus, mash potato & cabbage
Boneless Best End of Lamb on sauted spinach, Madeira sauce, Lyonnaise potatoes
Spicy Vegetable & Tomato Risotto (v)
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Minestrone Soup sprinkled with parmesan cheese (v)
Baked Cod in white wine with cherry tomatoes, garlic & a hint of chilli
Breast of Chicken in a cream & white wine sauce with mushrooms
Penne Pasta with red kidney beans & mozzarella cheese in a tomato sauce (v)
Roast Leg of English Lamb with mint sauce
Roast Sirloin of Beef with Yorkshire pudding
Main courses served with fresh vegetables of the day
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Fine for phoning

A MAN has been fined £175 and given three points on his licence for using a mobile phone while driving.

Ajah Stracchan, 28, of Kemble Close, Tunbridge Wells, was sentenced at West Kent Magistrates Court in Sevenoaks for the single offence.

The court heard he drove a Vauxhall Meriva on Friars Way, Tonbridge, while using a mobile phone on June 2 last year.

As well as the fine and points on his driving licence, he was ordered to pay prosecution costs of £100.

OAP hit by car

AN ELDERLY woman needed hospital treatment after being hit by a car as she tried to cross a road.

Police were called after a silver Ford Focus struck the woman, who is in her 70s, in Sevenoaks High Street, near the Boots Optician's store, on Friday, March 19, just before 11.30am.

The pensioner was taken to the Kent and Sussex Hospital for minor injuries.

Drugs possession

A MAN has been fined £300 and will have to pay £100 court costs after being caught with cocaine on him.

Matthew Reeves, 25, of Tonbridge Road, Tonbridge, was sentenced at West Kent Magistrates Court in London Road, Sevenoaks, for possession of the class A drug.

He was caught with 0.6 grams of cocaine on him in Tonbridge on February 21.

Reeves pleaded guilty to the offence. The cocaine was forfeited and destroyed.

Vital boost for groups in grant cash bonanza

By **JON COATES**
jon.coates@kosmedia.co.uk

THIRTY-three community groups will benefit from more than £200,000 funding to support their work during the next year.

The grants have been awarded by Sevenoaks District Council, which decided to continue the funding despite its budget pressures.

The Community Grant scheme helps fund voluntary services that residents have identified as a priority during consultations.

They include community safety, youth work, health improvement and the provision of services for the elderly and people with disabilities.

A total of £126,540 goes to the Sevenoaks and Swanley, and Edenbridge and Westerham Citizens Advice Bureaus.

Thirty-one other voluntary groups will share £79,630 between them – including Sevenoaks District Arts Council, which gets £8,500, Sevenoaks District Sports Council, which also gets £8,500, and Sevenoaks Leisure Ltd, which gets £2,000.

Cllr Pat Bosley, the council's cabinet member for community grants, said: "The district's numerous voluntary groups provide a wide range of services to the area's most vulnerable residents and I would personally like to thank them for all their work.

"The council's grant contribution will help them continue their important work that improves the lives of so many people."

Graham Coldman, chairman of Edenbridge and Westerham Citizens Advice Bureau, welcomed the grant being awarded, even though it was reduced from the previous year.

He said: "Both ourselves and the Sevenoaks and Swanley bureaus have a three-year service level agreement with the district council.

"This is its second year and all parties had agreed to a reduction of grant over the three years, so we were expecting to get less and for there to be a further reduction next year.

"But this is not like in previous years when we put in an application and then did not know until the last minute what we would get, which is harder to manage."

Mr Coldman added: "We are delighted the council is still supporting the bureaus in the Sevenoaks area.

"Without their support there would not be bureaus in this area, as we rely on their funding."

More information on the Community Grant scheme is available on the council's website, www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/grants.

The funding was agreed at a recent council cabinet meeting.

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The rich tapestry

Under estimate the power of the needle and thread at your peril – especially as it is the spark which has inspired a social group go from strength to strength – while producing generous, inspired designs. CLARE GRANT went to investigate a branch of the Embroiderers' Guild

PIN SHARP: A guild member working during a branch meeting

FAY Simmonds has grand plans for her three-year term as chairman of the Tunbridge Wells branch of the Embroiderers' Guild, which started in October.

"My big plan is get people to realise we exist," she says.

The branch was founded in 1975, and Ms Simmonds has been involved since she moved to Tunbridge Wells in 1988. "Previously, I lived in Exeter and was a member of the guild down there.

"I was very interested in antique needlework and I heard an advert on Devon radio about a talk on antique samplers at the local guild."

Ms Simmonds explained that one of the members, a lady called Joyce, asked her if she embroidered. "'No? Our next workshop is canvas-work. Come along. I'll bring you some stuff'. I was going through the motions, just being polite. Right up to the night before I wasn't going to go. But all I could think of was Joyce. She did the most beautiful needlework but she was crippled with arthritis and all I could think of was her getting those little bits of canvas out for me. So I went along after all."

The Tunbridge Wells group has a lively programme of talks by artists and crafters, many of them local. Recent highlights have included felter Harriet Appleby and textile artists Susie Vickery (with a talk enticingly titled The Melancholy of Tailors) and Anne Biss.

What sorts of people join the group? "We have a couple of members who don't sew at all but they like meeting the people and coming to the talks," says Ms Simmonds.

She adds quickly: "The Embroiderers' Guild has the widest church that ever there was. I do embroidery, quilting and beading. We have machine embroiderers. We have the wardrobe mistress from a local theatre. We paint on

FACT FILE

What is the guild?

The Embroiderers' Guild, which celebrated its centenary in 2006, is the UK's leading crafts association and educational charity.

It offers contemporary exhibitions, workshops, City & Guilds courses, lectures and tours. It is based in Hampton Court and has over 25,000 members and subscribers in the UK and abroad.

There are 238 branches and 95 young embroiderers groups – Tunbridge Wells has one of each.

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# of life

CROSS CULTURE: A purse made by Alison Miller incorporating a patch made by an Afghan woman as part of the One Earth Textiles project

HOOPED UP: The delicate patterns that can be created in blackwork. Left and below are two quilts made by members

material. We burn, we slash."

Members can try different techniques at workshops: "At the last one," says Ms Simmonds, "there was goldwork, blackwork and landscapes."

As well as working for their own satisfaction, the members support good causes, as Ms Simmonds explains: "For our meeting at Christmas, we made quilts for Project Linus, which are sent to any children in need. At the same time we were making heart cushions for women who have had breast cancer. They take the pressure off under the arm. The cushions will be going to the Pickering Cancer Drop-in Centre in Tunbridge Wells."

Ms Simmonds finds this opportunity to work together very appealing. "At our last meeting everyone was sat round sewing and the chatter level was enormous.

"There are a lot of women who are on their own. It's nice for them to come out on a Saturday and have a cup of coffee and a talk and a sewing bee."

• For more details about Tunbridge Wells Embroiderers' Guild, call Ms Simmonds on 01892 529819, or visit www.tunbridgewellsembroiderersguild.co.uk.

The group will be in the Pantiles on April 18, 24 and 25, with their A to Z of Embroidery exhibition and demonstrations. On June 5 there will be a special event at Groombridge Village Hall – a workshop titled Visible/Invisible by Maggie Grey.

Young embroiderers

Push open the door of a certain church hall in Tunbridge Wells, and you might be surprised to catch a circle of children aged seven to 17 happily stitching away.

Alison Miller, who has led the Tunbridge Wells Young Embroiderers since 2007 says: "They get so little sewing at school, which is one reason they really love coming. I think they find stitching together very calming. Several of them have said they wish they could come every week instead of once a month."

With such an age range, is it a challenge to please everyone? Mrs Miller says: "We do all sorts of projects. We've made collages. We've made an apron. Our last project was to create a bird of paradise, and we've made sock monkeys."

She explains that the group members adjust the difficulty level, depending on how ambitious they feel. Mrs Miller has discovered that age isn't always a good indicator of ability: "A girl came in aged just seven, and I thought 'oh dear, this is going to be a baby-sitting job'. I asked her if she had done any crafts, and she said: 'I do tapestry, knitting, canvas-work and cross-stitch.'"

IN A SPIN: The young embroiderers discover where thread comes from

Mrs Miller has been running the group since 2007 – she took over when the former leader had to give up because of illness.

What made her take on the job? "I hope to encourage young people to discover that there is more to life than sitting in front of the TV." Mrs Miller is particularly proud that one former member, who joined when she was four, is now studying textile art at college.

• The group is now up to 20 members, and there is a small waiting list to join. To find out more, or to add your child to the list, call Mrs Miller on 01892 782272.

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JULIE MADDOCKS

You can keep your 'best part of the day'

IT'S OFFICIAL then: a lie-in for teenagers has positive effects on their learning.

The finding was announced after a school in Tyneside introduced a later start to the day for 13 to 19-year-old pupils, with the timetable beginning at 10am.

The new schedule has seen a marked drop in absenteeism and an improved performance in memory tests, with more difficult lessons taking place in the afternoons.

So, on behalf of my son, may I convey my thanks to the school's headteacher who revealed these facts, as it has given him the perfect excuse to stay longer in bed – as if he needed one.

You have to wonder though, how this is preparing kids for life after school?

To my knowledge, there are few, if any, workplaces which would move their working hours to accommodate individual sleep patterns. Maybe if they just got more sleep in the first place, the problem would be solved.

Worryingly, recent research has shown a lack of sleep in teenagers can put them at a higher risk of depression, a possibility not to be ignored when you realise there are an estimated 80,000 children and young people suffering from the condition in the UK.

It's interesting how, as we age, our need for sleep changes markedly.

According to sleep expert Dr Neil Stanley, a person's need for sleep can decline by up to 11 hours a day during the course of a lifetime; from a maximum of 18 hours for a newborn baby to seven hours as an adult, with the average requirement of a teenager being around nine hours.

Lethargic

Compared to just a few years ago, there's a complete reversal in the day-to-day routine in our home, and it's all down to the sleep patterns of our children.

Gone are the early wake-up cries of a newborn baby, or the energetic springing out of bed of toddlers.

All that has been replaced by the lethargic lumber of teenagers, who make their way into the shower with all the enthusiasm of a slug that has stumbled across a packet of salt.

There's the constant wail of, "Oh, I'm so tired", despite suggestions of maybe getting more sleep and ditching the laptop and Xbox, so they may have a little more energy. Our advice, as you can imagine, falls on deaf ears.

Now we may think this is a modern day problem, blaming electronic technology for the decline in teens wanting to turn the light off, but apparently this has been a dilemma facing parents for decades.

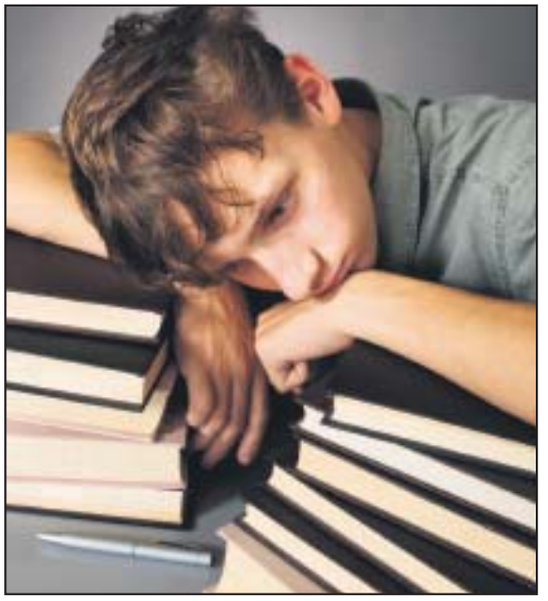
In 1908 at a meeting of the Child Studies Society, a report in journal Nature quoted the society's then chairman, Sir James Crichton-Browne, as saying: "The evil of insufficient sleep is widespread amongst children."

So it's nothing new. And to be fair to my children, I know I wasn't any different.

I remember my dad becoming irate that I couldn't be moved from my bed at the weekends. In his attempts to rouse me, dad would tell me again and again how I was "missing the best part of the day".

I'm sorry, it may have seemed that way to him, but the lure of Stewpot's Junior Choice on the radio didn't fill me with glee.

There's only so many times you can sing along with Ernie – even if he did have the fastest milk cart in the west.



DREAMING OF SLEEP: Get me that pillow will you, mum?

Julie reports from around the county for KOS Media's broadband TV station www.yourkenttv.co.uk Contact her on julie.maddocks@kosmedia.co.uk

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General Election leaving a big impression on Rory

JANE CONNOLLY caught up with comedian and impressionist Rory Bremner ahead of his appearance at the Trinity Theatre in Tunbridge Wells next month, and for whom the forthcoming election offers comedy inspiration to take on his national tour

AS the General Election looms, Rory Bremner is hitting the road to help the nation make up its mind.

One comedian and a legion of voices are climbing aboard the Election Battlebus and setting out to make light of the big issues.

But the tour is not just about comedy, as each show will also feature a question and answer session with a panel of special guests.

"I don't do too many tours or theatre shows, so it's a good chance to get out and about," Mr Bremner told this newspaper.

"The election might also have something to do with it. It's what I've been doing for the last 15 years or more and I should really be out doing this now, because obviously this is going to be the big story, certainly in March and April when the campaigning starts."

Mr Bremner's first stand-up tour for five years, the Election Battlebus will be heading for marginal constituencies – although Tunbridge Wells can hardly be considered as such – and poking fun at the people that hope to rule the country.

As well as making audiences laugh with his uncanny impersonations, Bremner also hopes the show will give voters the chance to settle some genuine queries.

"It's not just comedy; people should get a debate going. I can't mention names, but some guests will be friends and some will be candidates," he said.

"People will get the entertainment and also have the chance to ask questions and talk about issues. Even if it's not featuring in people's lives right now, for the next month it will be very topical."

Bremner, 48, has been the country's best-known impressionist for many years and he agreed that elections are an exciting time for satirists, confessing that he longed for "a pink battle bus".

He believes that even though choosing the next government is a serious business, there is always a demand to bring politicians down a peg or two.

"I think it's far too important to just leave it to the politicians," he said.

"At the moment, they're doing the comedy and we're doing the politics. It's hard to keep up with them – things like the expenses and the Chilcot Inquiry.

"People have always wanted to laugh about what's happening in the news and that's why we have BBC's Mock the Week and other shows. It's just something that we do."

Making other people say funny things has been the key to Bremner's enduring success and few comedians are better at pricking the bubble of pomposity that seems to surround many politicians.

His talent for mimicry was discovered during his school years when teachers and friends would provide his first repertoire of voices.

"I think Frank Skinner said that he hung around with a bunch of bullies and became the 'artist in residence'. I was the same in my class and I'd do the teachers, other boys and a lot of sport commentators," Bremner said.

"That was my first love. Some of the commentators started to die out a little and I think characters in public life are fewer and farther between.

"We lost another with the recent death of Michael Foot. We're talking about the Spitting Image generation and memories of those great characters."

"I think of Cameron as comedy and Brown as more tragedy. People recognise there's a driving ambition in Brown to do the right thing. At the moment, Cameron looks a bit two-dimensional…"

Studying modern languages at university was another way in which Mr Bremner could indulge his interest in accents and also introduced him to great French satirists like Voltaire.

He first ventured into show business with his 1985 single N-N-Nineteen Not Out, a parody of Paul Hardcastle's chart hit, 19, this time voiced by various cricket commentators.

Although he is best known for his interest in politics, Mr Bremner can be captivated by the voice of anyone in the public eye.

"It's not just politicians. I'm currently obsessed with Louis Walsh and Robert Peston, the BBC's business editor.

"It's great when voices like that come along, like William Hague's. These are people with very distinctive voices, but David Cameron and Nick Clegg are so difficult."

As a keen observer of politics, Mr Bremner believes the election could result in a hung parliament and questioned the wisdom of David Cameron constantly offering himself as a preferable alternative to Prime Minister Gordon Brown.

"I think of Cameron as comedy and Brown as more tragedy. I think people recognise there's a driving ambition in Brown to do the right thing," he said.

"He's given more respect abroad than at home and he was a leading figure in sorting out the economic system, so he has some clout. At the moment, Cameron looks a bit two-dimensional."

When asked if it was difficult to keep his own political agenda out of his comedy, Mr Bremner claimed there was no need to stifle his beliefs.

"That's what satire is – it's an expression of your own political leanings or preoccupations," he said.

"When you're doing Mock the Week or the News Quiz, it's very easy to write two jokes in favour of somebody and two against, but there's no point of view. Whilst it's more satire if it has a point of view and people can relate to it."

As long as the General Election stirs up the public interest in politics, Mr Bremner hopes to attract some of the last big characters to the show.

"It would be great to get someone like Ann Widdecombe. It might be a last chance to see me because I can't see that many new voices coming out of this lot."

• Rory Bremner's show at the Trinity Theatre on April 10 has sold-out. There may be box office returns however. Check with the venue for more details

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Robin - GI
Although not a war hero in the traditional sense, Robin is a brave man, who fights the war on design mediocrity. His 8 years of further ed. didn't result in a Doctorate, he's written a book, which no one understands, lives at home (his parents') and by nature he overcomplicates. He also bears a striking resemblance to Ade Edmonson...

Joe - N
Joe is an **in**somniac. An **un**apologetic geek, he speaks the language of 'tech-i' and requires an interpreter. He spends his weekdays building and developing websites and his weekends partying. Living alone (in his own home) he makes his own pasta and is fussy about tea.

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Amelia - MON
Hates Mondays. Loves skiing, chocolate, dancing, drinking, acting and playing with her hair.
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Ves calls everyone 'mate'. Disturbingly, he enjoys cold coffee and rain (something to do with being Bulgarian?). He doesn't enjoy criticism, or fish.

Bob - S
Singularly Scottish, Bob is part of the crack commando team of digital designers and developers. Commuting to Tunbridge Wells (but not from Scotland!) and hankering after a castle, he keeps his head down while the creative flack flies, whilst wishing the population understood the skill involved in web development.

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This advertisement has appeared in this way upon request of the client

Cancer charity dive is a family affair

A DARING mother and daughter team are gearing up for a sponsored tandem skydive to raise money for Kent Cancer Trust.

Sarah Lewis and her 16-year-old daughter Lottie Carter, from Canterbury, are doing the daring dive at Headcorn Airfield in memory of Sarah's grandparents, who both died from the disease.

The day of the jump – Sunday, May 2 – would have been her grandfather's 90th birthday.

Sarah said: "It seemed fitting that on the big day I, along with my daughter, launch myself out of a plane 10,000 feet above terra firma, in a bid to raise as much money as possible for Kent Cancer Trust."

They have already raised £500 between them, but are hoping to aiming for £1,500.

Kent Cancer Trust integrates cancer research, clinical treatments and public information and about the disease.

You can donate at www.justgiving.com/Sarah-Lewis2 or www.justgiving.com/Lottie-Carter.

Hi-tech boost for radiotherapy centre

CANCER patients in Kent will be among the first in the country to benefit from new technology delivering a more precise form of radiotherapy.

The Kent Oncology Centre – run by Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust – has splashed out £4.7 million on two RapidArc machines that allow doctors to tackle tumours with pinpoint accuracy.

Patients suffering from prostate and head and neck cancer will be the first to receive the new treatment when it is officially launched in September.

Clinical director Stewart Coltart said: "This is exciting news for the two million people we serve."

Picture: NTPL/ROBERT MORRIS

HISTORIC RESIDENCE: The country house on the Knole estate has not changed a great deal over the centurties

Preserved in time

JANE CONNOLLY discovers the fascinating links between royalty, nobility and literary figures at Knole house, residence of the Sackville family for more than 400 years

FROM the moment they enter the gates of Knole estate, visitors will have a pleasant feeling of anticipation.

The enormous country house is hidden from view as the long, steep drive winds its way through the grounds and up the hill overlooking Sevenoaks, giving visitors the chance to admire the many deer that can be seen in the park.

When the house is finally revealed, it is easy to see why novelist Vita Sackville-West was captivated by her childhood home.

In sunny weather, Knole has a warm and welcoming atmosphere that encourages people to relax in the grounds with a book or a picnic. But visiting on a cold, overcast day in March, before the house had reopened to the public for the new season, I was struck by the silence, the feeling of remoteness and the overwhelming size of the magnificent building.

Standing at the huge front door, the flagpole creaking in the wind high above me, it felt as if I was stepping into the past and could be confronted by ghosts of former residents at any moment.

Benevolent

This chilly feeling was soon dispelled by the cheerful welcome I received from Helen Fawbert, house and collections manager, who took me on a fascinating tour of the enormous property.

With facts and figures at her fingertips, her enthusiasm was infectious and she soon dispelled the idea that Knole was the traditional 'creepy old house'.

"There are no ghost stories at all," she said. "It must be the only country house with no ghosts. Vita Sackville-West wrote that she would go around the rooms with a candle at night and she was sure that there were no ghosts; it was a benevolent structure.

"She loved the house and believed that it loved her. I never feel weird if I'm called out here at night."

Picture: NTPL/NADIA MACKENZIE

ROYAL CHAMBER: The King's Room

Picture: NTPL/JOHN HAMMOND

RESIDENT: Novelist Vita Sackville-West loved Knole house and longed to inherit it

Given its long and intriguing history, it is surprising that Knole has not attracted the usual tales of ghostly goings-on. The home of the Sackville family for more than 400 years, it has also been owned by royals and archbishops, and has been something of a tourist attraction for the last three centuries.

Although the house has been in the possession of the National Trust since 1946, the show rooms at Knole have been attracting visitors since the early 18th century.

Some of the Sackvilles held high-profile roles at court, such as Lord Chamberlain, a position which required the holder to dispose of royal furniture when it was no longer needed.

Charles Sackville, 6th Earl of Dorset, amassed an impressive range of 17th century furniture, textiles and paintings at Copt Hall in Essex and moved the collection to Knole when the other house was sold in 1701.

"Being Lord Chamberlain meant that you had seriously high contacts at court and they wanted to show the status of the family, as had been. At the time, people would have recognised the work of royal craftsmen, so the contacts would have been obvious," Miss Fawbert said.

"The weird thing about all these show rooms is that they were probably last lived in during the first half of the 17th century. The family were Royalists and during the Civil War, the house was sequestered by the Parliamentarians and lots of items were sold off to raise money. The house was left empty and in bad repair.

"When Charles II came back to the throne, the family set about repairing the house in terms of their living areas and

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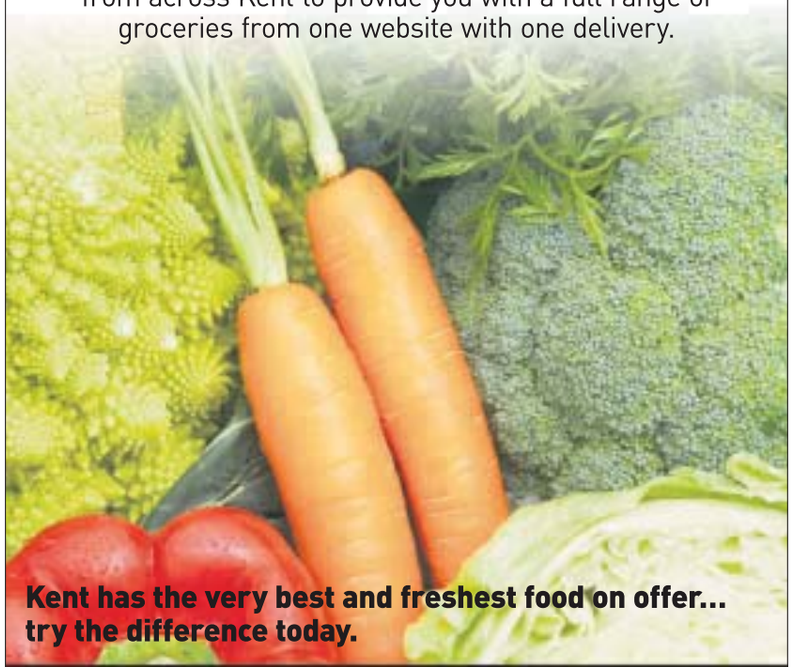

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STEEPED IN HISTORY: Imposing great staircase (left) and portraits in the Brown Gallery (right)

retiring to rooms that were more usable. The royal furniture came here in 1701 and it became like a museum."

Thomas Sackville, 1st Earl of Dorset, was the first Sackville to occupy Knole and he put his high society connections to good use when he set about improving the house.

In 1605 he commissioned the Great Staircase with its beautiful depictions of the Ages of Man, the Five Senses and the Virtues and Vices, which were first designed for the benefit of esteemed guests and would later captivate the many visitors exploring Knole.

"People had classical educations at that time and would recognise the symbolism. For you to understand the pictures meant that you had access to an education," Miss Fawbert explained.

"Before the 18th century, only privileged people came upstairs but then people began to visit – not quite in the same way as they do today, but there was quite a wide spectrum of people who came.

'There were those who would make progress around the country, visiting country houses, like an upper middle class pursuit."

Knole had also won the heart of the community and when Mortimer Sackville-West attempted to close the park in 1884, locals besieged the house in protest.

"It was a very middle class riot, but he had to open the gates again. What started off as a privilege, to visit Knole, came to be considered as almost a right."

Knole's history is bursting with colourful characters, the best-known being novelist, poet and gardener Vita Sackville-West. She was passionately attached to Knole and is credited with starting various myths about the house, though her creative streak was evidently a family trait.

"Vita could not inherit Knole, but she loved it and her writing here was extensive. She was quite bitter about it," Miss Fawbert said.

"Her cousin Eddy inherited but he did not like Knole and didn't spend much time here."

Knole is still home to the Sackville family, but this summer visitors will be able to see the Orangery which is being opened to the public for the first time. With new discoveries still being made, Miss Fawbert believes Knole has plenty to offer both visitors and historians.

"Some people love the dark and atmospheric quality of the house. It's a bit mysterious. The appeal with Knole is that so little has changed.

"Thomas Sackville would notice changes but he would be able to find his way around, even 400 years later, and that's quite unusual."

FACT FILE

Knole's famous residents

- Thomas Bourchier, Archbishop of Canterbury, bought the manor of Knole in 1456 and there is no firm evidence that a building existed before this time.
- In 1538 Henry VIII forced the Archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas Cranmer, to hand Knole over to him. But it is thought the King spent little time there, as he acquired 60 royal residences during his lifetime.
- Queen Elizabeth I granted Knole to her favourite, Robert Dudley, but it was returned to her possession after five years in exchange for land elsewhere.
- Sir Thomas Sackville acquired the lease in 1570 and began a family association with Knole which has lasted more than 400 years.
- Knole was the birthplace of novelist Vita Sackville-West (1892-1962), who would later create the internationally-renowned garden at Sissinghurst Castle and had a passionate affair with fellow writer, Virginia Woolf.
- The most famous piece of furniture in the house is the Knole settee, a prototype from which countless reproductions were made from the late 19th century onwards. Although it looks similar to the modern sofa, the settee was used in a more formal context. Placed beneath a canopy in the state dressing room or 'cabinet' beyond the bedchamber, it would have been used by the King or Queen to receive their most privileged guests.

• ***The house is open from Wednesday to Sunday until October 31. For more information call 01732 450608 or visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk.***

Boxing clever for new recycling bins

NEW cardboard banks are set to be available at recycling sites across Sevenoaks to make it easier for households to recycle large boxes.

The 18 banks will be in place by the end of next month and replace ones that have been in service for more than a decade and are too old to be maintained.

Sevenoaks District Council said they will be lockable and include signs with cardboard recycling with the hope of eliminating cardboard left on the ground around the banks.

To find your nearest cardboard bank and council recycling centres, call 01732 227000 or see www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/recycling.

Nominations call for our most enterprising

THE search for the south east's most enterprising place is under way.

It follows the launch of the Enterprising Britain 2010 competition.

The national competition, which celebrates local success when regional winners are selected in June, is encouraging everyone throughout the south east to nominate now.

Led by the South East England Development Agency (Seeda), the competition rewards cities, villages, towns and neighbourhoods that have tackled the economic downturn and are successfully creating jobs, boosting local business and nurturing entrepreneurial talent.

To register interest email your contact details to enterprisingbritain@enterpriseuk.org.

Entries must be submitted by May 31, 2010 and the winner will be announced in October 2010.

Enterprising Britain 2010 is a key part of the Government's drive to create the right conditions for enterprise across the UK.

CHRIS BRITCHER

Smokers' logic is being stubbed out

IF EVER there is a habit which is so 20th century, then surely it must be smoking.

Where once there were adverts where doctors (oh yes) explained what it was about their favourite brand of cigarettes they enjoyed so much and Hollywood stars just weren't cool without a tab dangling from their lips, today the mood has changed.

Because today we stand on the verge of our tolerance for smoking and smokers being stubbed out completely.

And, in all honesty, not before time.

This week perhaps proved the epitomy of why smokers and smoking-lobby groups have reached the end of a long line of trying to justify why smoking is in any way socially acceptable in this day and age.

A call to ban smoking in cars where children were present was proposed. Plus one banning smoking from public areas where children gather – such as playgrounds.

Now, without wishing to throw on the saddle of my high horse, get my feet in the stirrups and clamber on the trusted steed, surely this is sound commonsense?

Surely this is, without question, the right thing to do?

It is beyond proof that smoking is dangerous and of all the people in the world entitled to not have their lives affected by it are surely children? And that is before we enter the discussion about how they may see smoking as being socially acceptable if they grew up seeing adults smoking around them.

Yet still the dwindling number of increasingly desperate pro-smokers came out bleating on about it being an infringement of civil liberties and such a move being 'an over reaction'.

Does anyone honestly believe this argument any more aside from those addicted to nicotine and thus fuelled by a panic should their drug of choice be removed from them?

The irony is that I could stand in a play area and smoke a fag near young kids and the chances are no-one would look twice.

If I stood in the same place and just shouted the occasional swear word, parents and police would come flocking pretty promptly.

Yet breathing in the smoke would have done the child far more harm than being exposed to some of the English language's spicier phrases.

And I say all this not as some holier-than-thou non-smoker. I puffed away to the detriment, ultimately, of my long-term health for 17 years until an illness partially caused by smoking – or at least certainly not helped – brought me to my senses.

To be honest I cannot say I miss it at all.

I don't miss standing outside in freezing temperatures to smoke. I certainly don't miss the stench on my clothes and as I walk past people, that bellows 'I am a smoker'.

Nor do I regret not throwing pounds and pounds every day away in pursuit of bad health, bad breath and social exclusion.

But most of all I don't regret my children (who I hid my habit from and never smoked in front of them or indeed in the house or car) having to see their father pursue a really stupid habit, and everyone having to buy into the often unspoken concept that what I was doing was killing me and leaving them with the very real prospect of losing a parent while they were young.

Or perhaps they were just thinking they didn't much fancy having to care for me when I went down with one of the multitude of illnesses and aches and pains which come hand in hand with a life-time of smoking when I reached middle age?

Either way, it is a surprising weight off my shoulders as I approach two smoke-free years.

Nor can I say, hand on heart, I don't remain tempted occasionally to go back to smoking – despite all of the above.

But then I remember exactly how I perceive people who do continue in this day and age. How society is increasingly viewing them. And, quite frankly, I don't much fancy being pitied or indeed just plain disliked.

Chris Britcher is editor of this newspaper. Contact him with your news and views by emailing him direct: chris.britcher@kosmedia.co.uk

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Greens redouble efforts to halt road dualling scheme

The road to progress

When will the Greens give up whinging on about plans for the A21? Yes, it's a shame some woodland has to make way for the additional lane, but that's progress for you.

Believe it or not, the whole area was once under forests, but if we'd followed the Greens' lead civilisation would never have progressed.

West Kent needs additional capacity on the roads. No-one can doubt this, or deny it. And the dualling of the A21 comes not a moment too soon.

G Price
Southborough

Going nowhere fast

Pipe down Hazel Dawe. The Green Party will make no dent in the polls at the General Election precisely for their stand on matters such as the A21.

Has she ever had the misfortune of driving between Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells during the rush hour?

If so, she'd think twice about opposing this.

Terry Maine
Tonbridge

Closure is a sad day

What a pity the Land Registry is to close. I just hope the building which has housed it will be used for something significant and that whoever moves in will replace at least some – if not all – of the jobs which will be lost by the Land Registry's closure.

Mrs K Knight
Tunbridge Wells

Make your voice heard

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Please also include a daytime telephone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit letters.

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Our Land Registry's future is demolished

We'll need them again

Could someone kindly explain to me that when the property market once again picks up, when commercial and residential sites begin changing hands again – as they most surely must – who is going to handle the paper work?

If the Land Registry sheds jobs and offices now – when the market it in the middle of a huge slump – what happens when, in six, 12, 18 months, things bounce back?

New people will have to be trained up and new office space, no doubt not in Tunbridge Wells, will be needed. Seems ridiculous to me.

Jane Pearson
Tunbridge Wells

Cash in on culprits

Last week someone wrote in to your letters page calling for more effort on catching the culprits of littering rather than arranging for youngsters to pick it up.

I could not agree more. We seem, as a society, so focused on trying to provide treatment for problems rather than solving the conditions which cause it.

Littering is completely inexcusable. Surely if we had people on patrol issuing hefty on the spot fines it would, once and for all, stop the lazy, inconsiderate culprits. Plus it would generate a handy revenue stream no-one could argue with.

J Potter
Sevenoaks

Potential for change

Interesting that you should mention in your article about getting people to vote about the small majorities most borough councillors hold.

The reality, of course, is that if the missing many – predominantly young people – were to register to vote and then exercise that right, they could genuinely shape the way the town was run. My only concern is whether they are so disconnected with politics in this day and age they simply would not have bothered reading a story urging them to engage.

Gareth Cox
Tunbridge Wells

Warning over silent masses not registered to vote
DON'T LOSE YOUR VOICE

VOTE NOW...

Each week we'll be giving you the chance to make your voice heard online on a major issue.

This week we continue to ask your views ahead of the impending General Election.

And as we live in an area dominated by Conservative MPs we want to know if you believe that dominance can be broken?

So the question is simply: Do you believe any other party will represent Tunbridge Wells, Tonbridge or Sevenoaks within the next 20 years than the Conservatives?

Answer yes or no by voting on the home page of www.yourtunbridgewells.co.uk, www.yourtonbridge.co.uk or www.yoursevenoaks.co.uk.

LAST WEEK'S POLL

Have you made up your mind as to who you will vote for in a General Election?

- **Yes** – 75 per cent
- **No** – 25 per cent

Letters continue on page 30

"Judds are an agency that can link our marketing campaigns across all media, print & web and this has been a great advantage."
Managing Director, **Lenleys** (www.lenleys.co.uk)

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"Judd Associates are extremely helpful and full of fresh creative, yet practical ideas"
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BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

Including family announcements in partnership with the Kent registration service

To register Births, Marriages and Deaths contact the Kent registration service on 0845 824 7400
For advertising announcement enquiries telephone Kent on Sunday on 01303 817150

BIRTHS

BOSTOCK
Amy and Jason Bostock celebrate the birth of their son Seth Jason Bostock on 18th March 2010.

CLARKE
Graham Craig and Kathryn Clarke celebrate the birth of their Daughter Evie Louise Clarke on 12th March 2010. Little Sister for Rhys.

CLAYTON
Rebecca and Graeme Clayton celebrate the birth of their son Toby John Clayton on 14th March 2010.

DOBSON
Kirsty and Liam are delighted to announce the birth of their baby son Kenzo. Proud big brothers are Lewis and Callum.

GOTT
Kayleigh Louise born on 15th March 2010, weighing 7lb 14oz. Daughter to Christopher and Leane in Maidstone.

GRIFFITHS
Rebecca is delighted to announce the birth of her son Theo George Griffiths, born on 16th February 2010 at QEQM Hospital. My most beautiful and precious son.

OSHEA
John and Liz are delighted to announce the birth of their son Alexander Marcus on 11th March 2010 at Pembury Hospital

OTT
Nicholas and Andea are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful baby daughter Ella Rose born on the 5th March 2010 at Pembury Hospital weighing 5lb 14oz.

DEATHS

BROWN
Ray Brown died eacefully at home on 18th March 2010. Funeral service at Vinters Park Crematorium at 2pm on 31st March 2010. Charity donations to The Macmillan Cancer Support.

CLARK
Stan Clark of Lydd passed away peacefully on 22nd March 2010 aged 86.

CLOKE
Harry James (Joe) Cloke of Hythe died peacefully on 19th March 2010. Funeral service at Barham at 10am, Tuesday 30th March.

HAWKESWORTH
Ron Hawkesworth of Folkestone died peacefully on 20th March 2010 Funeral Service at Hawkinge Crematorium on 31st March at 2pm. All friends welcome.

LAMKIN
Jean Hilda Lamkin of Bekesbourne died on 18th March 2010. The funeral will be held at Barham Crematorium on Tuesday March 30th at 11.20am. Flowers if desired or donations to the British Heart Foundation.

RALPH
In loving memory of Joan Irene Ralph, our dear mum and nan, who passed away peacefully at home on 12th March 2010. She will be greatly missed. Lots of love Marion, David, Janet, Zoe, Blake, Damon, Ross and family and friends. May you be at rest with your great-grand daughter Isla. xxx

ROBERTS
Joan Ivy Roberts passed away on 18th March 2010 at Darent Valley Hospital. Funeral to be held at Dartford Baptist Church on 7th April at 11am. She will be sadly missed by all the family.

Letters continued from page 29

Lisbon trap has been sprung on Great Britain

Herman Van Rompuy is the unelected president of more than 500 million people, including us.

He receives a taxpayer-funded salary higher than that of President Barack Obama in the United States. Mr Van Rompuy would never have been given the position if we had been given the referendum on Europe that we were all promised. The majority of people do not want another layer of bureaucracy with centralised power creating a remoteness and a separation between the public servant and the public they serve.

The EU intends to set up its own prosecutor's office and European arrest warrant is simply giving us a foretaste of what awaits.

It will be applied not just to people who are extradited outside Britain, but in Britain itself, under new European laws and rules, which will be imposed on us although they are utterly alien to our own traditions.

Will the other parties get us out of the European Union? No. Will the other parties turn the tide of immigration? No. The EU is a massive threat to national security and the personal safety of each and every one of us. The Lisbon Treaty is a trap which has been sprung.

Victor Webb, UK Independence Party parliamentary candidate for Tunbridge Wells

Country's digital divide is not being narrowed

While poverty charity Elizabeth Finn Care supports Prime Minister Gordon Brown's proposals for a Digital Future, it believes questions need to be asked to ensure vulnerable groups are not ostracised further from society as Britain moves towards a more digital age.

Elizabeth Finn Care is concerned that those living in poverty will not benefit from the Government's proposals, because they won't be able to afford their own computers and monthly internet fees.

Furthermore, the organisation knows from experience that some vulnerable groups, such as the disabled, struggle to find funding to access the equipment they need to access the internet or simply don't have the support and training they need to use it – leaving them feeling isolated and excluded from the rest of society.

The charity is urging the Government to ensure that all members of the public have cheap access to computers and the internet to benefit from these changes, while sufficient training is given to ensure individuals are confident in using information technology and can benefit from the introduction of Mygov.

The internet is an extremely valuable tool, so let's ensure we give everyone the capabilities to access it.

Rob Tolan, Elizabeth Finn Care

Don't suffer in silence if you have tinnitus

In the wake of the recent Tinnitus Awareness Week, I write to inform your readers of new initiatives Deafness Research UK is launching to help sufferers of this distressing condition.

Deafness Research UK is determined not to give up on those who are enduring the symptoms of tinnitus every day and while we continue to search for cures, we are publishing a free leaflet, called Managing Tinnitus, and our national helpline is available to provide additional support for those who need us.

Tinnitus is a condition that causes ringing in the ears or head, but where the noise does not originate from an external source.

The noise level can range from a light buzzing to a constant roar of sound and it can have a devastating effect on quality of life.

We are offering Managing Tinnitus free to sufferers and those who suspect they may have the condition.

People can get the leaflet from our website at www.deafnessresearch.org.uk, by emailing info@deafnessresearch.org.uk or by calling our freephone helpline on 0800 808 2222.

The leaflet offers advice on how to manage the condition, based on the very latest research.

Current research indicates that many sufferers could benefit from using a hearing aid and we are encouraging people to at least have a discussion with their GP.

About five million people suffer from tinnitus in the UK alone and many are coping with both tinnitus and hearing loss, yet less that £1 per year is spent per capita in finding treatments and cures.

Vivienne Michael, Deafness Research UK

Research needed as we all live longer lives

Latest figures from the Office of National Statistics (ONS) reveal that on average, men and women now aged 65 can expect to live until 82 and 85 respectively.

However, the figures also show that of those extra years, men can expect to live over seven years (7.2) with a long-standing illness or disability and women over nine years (9.4).

While our increased life expectancy is cause for celebration, we must ensure that people in later life remain healthy for as long as possible to enable us all to make the most of our extra years. Science has played a key role in increasing life expectancy, but age-related research looking at the health problems associated with later life remains a hugely underfunded area.

Research into Ageing, the biomedical research arm of Age Concern and Help the Aged, carries out research into the causes, prevention and treatment of diseases and disabilities that become more common with age.

The charity funds research into a range of things, from incontinence to dementia to nutrition. For more information, or to support Research into Ageing, visit www.ageing.org or call 0207 239 1984.

Prof James Goodwin, Age Concern and Help the Aged

Cycling towards Paris for our good cause

The Meningitis Trust is making the final call for people to take part in our London to Paris Cycle Ride, which takes place from July 2-5.

Over the three (the fourth is free) days, cyclists will pedal across undulating terrain and are rewarded with fantastic views as the route weaves through the South Downs, then on to France and through the pretty Normandy countryside. The finish line is at one of Europe's most recognisable landmarks, the Eiffel Tower.

By raising money for the Meningitis Trust, participants will enable the charity to continue offering its unique range of professional services and community-based support; helping people rebuild their lives after meningitis.

Registering couldn't be easier, simply call 0845 120 4530 for a free information pack or www.meningitis-trust.org/cycle.

Participants will be required to pay a registration fee and pledge to raise funds for the trust.

Roza Woodley, London to Paris Cycle Ride organiser, Meningitis Trust

The truth slaughtered by BBC documentary

Spring is finally here, and what better illustration of new life and hope than seeing newborn lambs gamboling in our countryside?

Sadly, the recent BBC series Lambing Live showed an overly picture-box version of this livestock industry, while predictably sidestepping more awkward questions on animal welfare and the morality of eating meat.

The programme's makers failed viewers, and the animals themselves, by not showing the grim reality of slaughter. TV presenter Kate Humble's platitudes about killing baby animals – let's not make bones about it because that is what they are – were frankly insulting.

The reality of the British sheep industry is not quite so rosy. About 15 per cent of all newborn lambs die annually in the UK, with hpothermia responsible for about one million deaths each year. Most UK lambs are subjected to tail docking.

A rubber ring is applied to the tail and prevents blood flow. Between four to six weeks later the tail will wither and drop off. This causes pain and stress. Naturally, sheep can live 10 to 12 years, but lambs killed for meat are typically just four months old.

If the BBC undertakes to make programmes such as this, it must not – for want of a better term – pull the wool over the eyes of viewers.

For once, why doesn't the BBC commission a documentary that investigates the shocking truth behind the short lives and brutal deaths of the 881 million animals killed for meat each year in the UK?

If you want to celebrate new life this spring, why not go veggie? For free help in saving the lives of animals, contact Viva! on 0117 944 1000 or email info@viva.org.uk.

Justin Kerswell, campaigns manager, Viva!

Helping to cope with Asperger's Syndrome

In celebration of World Autism Day (April 2), I wanted to draw attention to the needs of a particular subgroup of autism, namely children with Asperger's Syndrome.

Children and young people with Asperger's usually have significant difficulties in socialising with others and making friends.

They also like to have routines, even if the routines do not appear to most people to be useful. They can have very restricted interests and can have a difficulty with language development.

Their apparent 'oddness' can lead to teasing, social isolation and possible mental health problems.

Most professionals agree that early diagnosis offers the best outcome.

The most appropriate treatment is a package of measures – depending on the needs of the child – which includes training in social skills, social communication intervention and therapy to reduce the number of obsessive interests.

However, perhaps we should as a society, instead of labelling the difference, celebrate the diversity of human talents and ways of being.

In the world of maths, computing, engineering, cataloguing and science there is great value in a precise eye for details, which many people with Asperger's have.

For parents of children with Asperger's the choice of school is all important.

Many children with Asperger's are educated in mainstream schools. A smaller number attend specialist schools.

Whatever school is chosen by parents, it will need to celebrate diversity, to have an inclusion policy which is genuine rather than illusory and which meets the child's special needs in an holistic and caring way.

I have written a free and simple factsheet on Asperger's which can be downloaded from the Appleford School website www.appleford.wilts.sch.uk or you can write to Asperger's Simplified Factsheet, Appleford School, Shrewton, Wiltshire SP3 4HL.

Dr Peter Gardner
Chartered Psychologist, British Psychological Society

A generation betrayed

Government cuts to university education are so short-sighted as to be a joke.

If Britain is prosper in the future it will need to innovate and develop new products and processes.

It is the graduates of the future who will drive the economic development of our country – so what does the Government do?

It makes sure there will be fewer graduates in the future by cutting university places in an effort to balance the national accounting books.

Young people already struggle too hard to make a future for themselves, and this is nothing less than a betrayal of a generation.

Charles Harper, by email

In the market for a 32 inch LCD TV? This Samsung is a stunner of a deal

For quality High-Definition viewing this TV has a performance that belies the price! With twin rear-mounted HDMI (and one side-mounted) sockets allow for the connection of 3 High Definition sources, such as an HD-TV box, HD camcorder and Blu-ray.

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digital

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Model: M197WD

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SAMSUNG 37" LCD TV

The LE37B530 is a fantastic entry into the stylish and top-performing 5-Series. For top 1080p value, this Samsung makes a tempting choice.

TSP £549.95
Model: LE37B530

SAVE £150 £399.95

digital

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LG 50 INCH 1080P PLASMA TV

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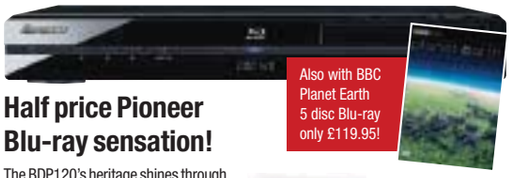

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New diploma to help launch careers in the public sector

A NEW qualification aimed at people who want to embark upon a career in the public sector has been launched.

Those hoping to join the police force, fire service or other jobs in the sector will be able to take their Diploma in Public Services from September, 2010, at colleges in Dover, Deal and Sandwich.

It is one of the first areas in the country to launch this new diploma scheme.

The course will include modules such as protecting society, leadership and management and health and well-being.

Lis Martin, partnership lead for the Diploma in Public Services at Skills for Justice, said: "This diploma is exactly what the public sector has been crying out for – a qualification that will channel enthusiastic young people into the many fantastic careers on offer.

"It will provide a new lease of life to the sector and will ensure that employees of the future are well equipped with relevant knowledge to prepare them for work."

For information visit www.diplomapublicservices.co.uk.

£10m campus will Bridge the gap on new homes site

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

A PRIMARY school, sports hall and nursery form part of a new £10 million community and learning campus at The Bridge housing development in Dartford.

Iconic fashion and urban designer Wayne Hemingway was on hand to officially open the building, which also houses a youth centre, a sensory room for disabled people and healthcare and social services.

The campus will be available for everybody living in the £500m estate, which will eventually comprise of 1,500 homes and 1.8 million square feet of commercial space.

Mr Hemingway, who is chairman of the South Coast Design Forum, said: "We jumped at the chance to get involved in this project.

"Life is about living in a place and enjoying it. The best thing is about seeing kids using the building, being enthused and having a good time.

"That's what The Bridge is about."

Paid for by Dartford council, ProLogis Developments and the housebuilder George Wimpey, the new campus includes many environmental features as well as a bay tree planted in the sensory room as a reminder of the official opening.

The primary school opened its doors last September and is currently home to more than 60 pupils across three classes. The nursery will also be run there.

Kent County Council's cabinet member for regeneration and economic development, Cllr Kevin Lynes, said the campus was the first of its kind in the county.

He added: "This is all about providing a new place at the centre of a community for the community.

"As more people move into the new homes it will grow to suit their needs, as we are putting the infrastructure in place before more housing is built.

"It is economical, green and the sign of things to come as local people will be able to educate their children, go to evening classes or jump on the bus to Bluewater, Dartford and Ebbsfleet – all from one place."

Dartford council leader Cllr Jeremy Kite added: "Today marks the culmination of a huge amount of hard work to bring about this truly unusual and distinctive facility, in what is becoming a landmark community for Dartford."

Courses to help make workplace more welcoming for the disabled

VISIT Kent representatives have taken part in a training course to learn how to advise businesses on improving accessibility for people with disabilities.

Advisors at the organisation, which promotes tourism in Kent, and specialist trainers from Tourism South East, believe it is vital that companies make small improvements to gain a competitive edge.

Research found that 2.5 million disabled people travel for pleasure regularly, contributing more than £40 billion to the UK economy.

Kerstin Beeching, training manager at Visit Kent, said: "This is an important market. Our Welcome All training courses available to tourism, leisure and hospitality businesses focus on small, practical steps owners can take which will make a big difference to their staff, guests and customers."

WELCOMING SIGN: Visit Kent staff learn how to sign on Our Welcome All course

Pull out your Review section opposite to read JobsforKent.co.uk, starting on page 89

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ACH is a fast-growing organisation, developing new, high-quality residential homes for adults with Learning Disabilities. Due to our continued growth we now require the following staff to complement our team at our homes in

BOBBING AND STROOD

www.achuk.com

BOBBING

SENIOR SUPPORT WORKERS
Salary from £15,250

SUPPORT WORKERS
Salary from £13,250

NIGHT SUPPORT WORKERS
Salary from £13,250

STROOD

SENIOR SUPPORT WORKERS
Salary from £15,250

For an application pack please visit our website at www.achuk.com
Alternatively e-mail louise.burrows@achuk.com or contact Human Resources on 0208 502 8849.

ACH London Limited
Providing Care, Developing Independence

To advertise in this section
✆ 01892 458204

Sparshatts of Kent Ltd
Mercedes-Benz Van & Truck Dealers

Two positions have arisen for a Trainee Service Advisor at our Dartford depot and a Service Advisor at our Tunbridge Wells depot.

Your role will be to guide our customers through the service process from initial booking to the return of their commercial vehicle. You will have excellent customer facing skills gained in a similar role, an excellent telephone manner, high standards of personal appearance, IT keyboard skills and a full clean driving license.

Please apply in writing, including your curriculum vitae or by email to Donna Berllaque, Assistant to Service Managers, Sparshatts of Kent Ltd,

Unit 10 Eurolink Industrial Estate,

Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 3RN.

Email: donna.berllaque@mercedes.co.uk

Mercedes-Benz

Psychological Therapist

£21,519 – £27,849 PRO RATA, PER ANNUM
ESSENTIAL CAR USER ALLOWANCE OF UP TO £1,170 PRO RATA, PER ANNUM
PART TIME, 25 HOURS PER WEEK • EVENINGS MAY BE REQUIRED
BASED IN FAVERSHAM, WORKING ACROSS CANTERBURY & COASTAL DISTRICT

KCA (UK) provides a wide range of high quality, innovative primary care mental health services, including Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT), part of our Psychological Therapy Providers (PTP) service. We offer a strong departmental framework with regular clinical supervision, line management, monthly team meetings and effective administration.

We require an experienced psychological therapist to work with adult clients in our well established service providing short term therapy within GP practices. The number of sessions and available working days will be negotiated to meet the needs of the contracted service.

You should be qualified to a minimum of diploma level. Knowledge and skills in cognitive behavioural therapy, EMDR, interpersonal therapy and couple work are highly desirable and you should be eligible for either BACP/BABCP accreditation or UKCP registration. If you are currently employed by the NHS we will arrange for you to remain in the NHS pension scheme.

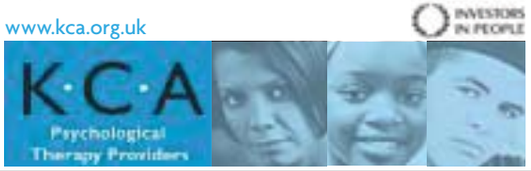
For an informal discussion of the above post please contact Lesley Rogers, Clinical Manager on 01795 590212 (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday).

An application form and job description can be downloaded from www.kca.org.uk or call 01795 590635. Please quote reference number 644.

Closing date: 16 April 2010. Interview date: 30 April 2010 in Faversham.

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all.
Charity No: 292824

www.kca.org.uk
INVESTORS IN PEOPLE



Young Persons' Substance Misuse Worker 'Changes' Dual Diagnosis Project

£21,519 – £27,849 • 37 HOURS PER WEEK
BASED IN GRAVESEND, COVERS DARTFORD AND GRAVESEND AREAS.
FIXED TERM UNTIL 31 MARCH 2011

KCA (UK) is an expanding and vibrant organisation providing a wide range of high quality and innovative specialist services in the drug, alcohol and mental health sectors. KCA Young Persons' Drug and Alcohol Service provides specialist drug and alcohol interventions for young people aged 10 – 18, their parents/carers and other agencies.

Already established in East Kent, this project is expanding into West Kent supporting young offenders who present with both substance misuse and mental health concerns. The project will be delivered in collaboration with the local Youth Offending Team and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services.

We require an experienced practitioner to offer intensive packages of community support to young people and their families/carers. The emphasis is on multi-agency intervention and delivering creative care packages which meet identified needs. You must have significant experience of working with young people with complex needs including substance misuse issues. Relevant professional training is essential.

Should you wish to discuss this role informally please contact Sarah Mills on 01795 590635.

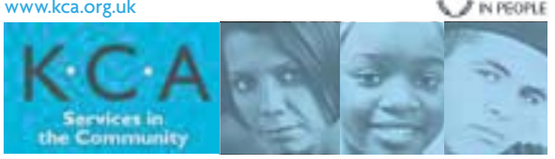
Previous applicants need not apply.

Application forms and job descriptions can be downloaded from www.kca.org.uk or call 01795 590635. Please quote reference 637.

Closing date: 6 April 2010.

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all and welcomes applications from people with experience of substance use or who have had previous problems with substance misuse. Charity no: 292824.

www.kca.org.uk
INVESTORS IN PEOPLE



KENT WILDLIFE TRUST

Charity Reg. No. 239992

Based at Tyland Barn Headquarters Maidstone

This 11 months role is unsalaried but offers a training budget (3 days per week)

Volunteer Trainee Community Engagement Placement

Closing Date: Thursday 8th April 2010
Interview Date: Tuesday 20th April 2010

Based at Mayton Oast, near Canterbury

The role: an exciting opportunity to develop your skills and practical experience by assisting the Community Engagement Officer with the delivery of education and community activities at Blean Woodlands. Some weekend/evening work may be involved.

You: will have a professional, mature approach and possess the ability to communicate effectively with the public. Enthusiasm for working with young people and adults in a variety of settings is essential, as is your interest in environmental issues.

Kent Wildlife Trust is the leading wildlife charity for Kent and Medway

This post requires an Enhanced Disclosure from the Criminal Records Bureau.

Contact details:
To discuss this post please contact Paul Dorrington on 01622 662012 or Kathryn Barton 01227 719506. For an application pack please visit www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk or telephone Dot Hughes 01622 662012, email dot.hughes@kentwildlife.org.uk

Kent Wildlife Trust has a positive approach to equality and welcomes applications from all sectors of the community

FIELD SERVICE ENGINEER

Versatile Field Service Engineer required for a small company based in Sevenoaks.
Duties to include the Service and Calibration of Laboratory Equipment.

This is an interesting as well as very responsible position. The ideal candidate would need to be flexible, forward thinking and organised.
Electro-mechanical and refrigeration experience essential.
Must be prepared to travel throughout UK
To apply please telephone
01732 743901

Market Research Interviewers

Earn £57.60-£63.72 for a 6 hour working day with travel allowance and holiday pay, interviewing people in their own homes after 12.30pm.

Flexible work, no previous experience – full training given. NO SELLING. A good standard of English is required, along with landline phone and your own transport. To apply call or download an application form from our website. Please quote Reference No. 6793SC on all applications.

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www.kantaroperations.com
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To advertise in this section
01892 458204

IPS INTERNATIONAL Ltd

QUALITY AND SYSTEMS IMPROVEMENT MANAGER

IPS International is a successful and expanding training business based in Rochester. We train in the fields of Engineering and Manufacturing, Social Care, Management and Business Services. Funded training is provided for apprentices and adults together with commercial training in all areas of the business.

This new role involves the development and co-ordination of quality and systems improvement throughout the business and the introduction of performance measures to meet the requirements of Government funding, Ofsted and the marketplace.

Initially the role will include:
- Reviewing and updating existing policies and procedures.
- Developing new policies and procedures.
- Conducting internal audits.
- Co-ordinating the production of Self Assessment Reports.
- Networking with other training providers on quality issues.
- Co-ordinating the development of Safeguarding policies.
- Communicating with, and training, IPS staff and associates.

The successful applicant will work closely with the Senior Management Team to further develop the necessary quality expertise and will be capable of drafting accurate and precise documents and working collaboratively. Good IT skills will be required as will self motivation and the ability to maintain accurate and timely records.
To apply, please provide a CV plus accompanying letter explaining your suitability for the role to Michael Henderson at the address below by the closing date of 14th April 2010.

IPS is an equal opportunities employer; we welcome applicants from all sectors of the community, including minority groups, and we are committed to safeguarding young people and vulnerable adults

IPS International Ltd
Sir Thomas Longley Road
Medway City Estate, Rochester
Kent, ME2 4DU
E: theoffice@IPS-International.com

ips INTERNATIONAL

Coach Body and Paint Repairs Technician

Due to pending retirement we are looking for a permanent, full time technician to join our busy Engineering Department. The ideal candidate will be reliable, self motivated and flexible.

You must be experienced in-
- Body repairs (filling/ reshaping etc.)
- Panel work
- Paint refinishing (able to apply 2 pack paints)
- Welding
- Steel repairs/ fabrication

Salary dependant on level of experience.

Please email your cv to **sarah.hackett@thekingsferry.co.uk** or post to **The Travel Centre, Gillingham, Kent. ME8 6HW**

THE KINGS FERRY

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Have you thought about a new and rewarding career?

All Seasons is expanding and looking for carers in your area to join our teams in providing domiciliary care and support services in the community.

Experience is desirable but not essential as training will be given. Own transport preferable.

You must be able to work either early mornings or evenings and some weekends.

For further information and an application pack call
01227 265899
or visit
www.allseasons.org.uk

Head Office:
All Seasons (Kent) Ltd,
Kent Enterprise House
1 The Links, Herne Bay
Kent CT6 7GQ
Reg. Co. No. 6136630

LAURA ASHLEY

We currently have the following vacancies:
ASSISTANT MANAGER - SEVENOAKS
HOME/FASHION MANAGER - BLUEWATER
MANAGER - ORPINGTON

Applicants will need to have a proven track record in either a retail or sales environment.

If you are interested in applying for any of the above positions send your CV and covering letter to:
Andrea Wiltshire, Laura Ashley,
62 High Street, Bromley, Kent, BR1 1EY
Region7.careers@lauraashley.com

Laura Ashley is an equal opportunities employer
www.laurashley.com

We are looking for exceptional sales people for a number of field and telephone sales positions
Only hard working, tenacious and motivated professionals need apply

KOS media
Award Winning Company

Ideally from a sales background you will understand the importance of balancing good customer service with achieving targets.
Media experience is not essential as training will be given.

KOS Media is one of the fastest growing independent multi media companies serving the Kent county. We publish 14 weekly newspapers including the flagship Kent on Sunday together with seasonal /annual magazines and 20 online news sites.

We offer a good basic salary, performance and target related bonus and 5 weeks holiday. So if you think you have what it takes to join our sales teams send your CV to **appointments@kosmedia.co.uk** quoting sales executive in the subject line.

WAIT STAFF

wanted for fine dining restaurant in Ramsgate.
Experience essential.
Must be able to work weekends and evenings.
Please send CV to
info@ageandsons.co.uk

Experienced Floor manager/ess and bar and wait staff
Required at very busy
Café restaurant at Ramsgate Sea front
For more information please call
Heather – 07966 295070
Or email: cgoodwin2010@hotmail.co.uk

Littlebourne House Care Home
A busy family run home require dedicated
Care Staff - Full time 12 hour shifts
Experience not essential as training provided
Pay according to experience and qualifications
also
Domestic/Cleaners - Full time
Please call Amanda
01227 721527

Domestic Help
20 hours per week
and also a
Part-Time Cook
12 hours per week
required at Care Home in Westgate on Sea
For more information please contact Debbie or Diane
Tel: 01843 831491

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it will never be just another job

mcch is a charity committed to designing and delivering services to adults with learning disabilities and mental health needs. It's people like you who empower each individual by giving them more independence and continue to be part of society.

Supported Living Support Worker (12 month contract) **Ref: 690/E**
£16,040-£16,896 pro rata 1x PT 16 hrs Thanet

We are looking for an enthusiastic, self motivated individual to join our supported living team working with people who have a learning disability or mental ill health. Applicants must be flexible, reliable and able to promote and support individual's health, wellbeing and independence. Experience in Learning Disabilities or Mental Health would be advantageous. If you are looking for a job that can be both challenging, and rewarding apply now. Full driving licence required.

How to apply....

Closing date 6th April 2010. For further information or to apply online visit **www.mcch.co.uk** or email us for an application form at **jobs@mcch.co.uk** alternatively call our recruitment line on **0845 600 1552**. Please quote ref. We also have large type/Braille versions available on request. All appointments are subject to a Criminal Records Disclosure.

mcch

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bathrooms by
Ripples

BATHROOM DESIGNER & TRAINEE BATHROOM DESIGNER

Our showroom in Tunbridge Wells requires showroom based innovative, yet practical design/sales consultants.

You will: Help customers explore their needs, stimulate their imagination and create bathrooms that meet their every expectation.

You need: To be a good communicator.
To have excellent drawing skills.
To work under pressure and unsupervised.
To attend site visits.
To work flexibly.
To have a current driving licence.

We offer: A good salary package plus commission

Extensive training and an opportunity to excel at the highest level in bathroom design.

Applications in writing marked Private & Confidential to:
Colin Payne, Ripples, 12 Union Square, Eridge Road, Tunbridge Wells TN4 8HE
cpayne@ripples.ltd.uk **www.ripples.ltd.uk**

ASSISTANT CHEF

required for busy country pub with good reputation for fine food

Apply to ***Eric*** or ***Helen***
(between 9 & 12 noon)
Tel: 01303 844663

Activities Leader

Cicero Languages International

We are looking for an activities leader to start immediately, initially part-time (a few hours a week), organising and participating in the students' social programme, then working more hours in the busy summer season.

Please see our website for full details: **www.cicero.co.uk**
No phone calls please
Email C.V. to Carrie Reay at: **academic@cicero.co.uk**

Public Sector

You can also find the latest jobs online: **www.jobsforkent.co.uk**

KOSMEDIA | Telephone: 01892 458204 | Fax: 01303 817004 | Email: appointments@kosmedia.co.uk | Online: www.jobsforkent.co.uk

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THAMESVIEW SCHOOL with Business & Enterprise Status
Thong Lane, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 4LF
Headteacher: **Miss R. Hughes** B.Ed Hons

Tel: 01474 566552 Fax: 01474 537405

Number on roll:
840

11- 16 Mixed
High School

Are you a UK graduate in Science or Business?
Are you interested in a career in teaching?

We are delighted to be offering two GTP placements, one in Science and one in Business, under the GRADUATE TEACHER PROGRAMME at Thamesview School for a September 2010 start. The placement is run in conjunction with Christ Church College University, Canterbury and leads to full Qualified Teacher Status on successful completion of the training programme.

Thamesview is an improving school with specialist Status for Business and Enterprise. We are at an exciting time in the school's development: we have just produced the best GCSE results at 67% A*-C, which have increased year on year for the last six years, we have acquired specialist school's status in Business & Enterprise, and have a £1.2 million Vocational Centre on site which opened in 2006.

We are in the current wave of Building Schools for the Future (BSF), so our newly designed school will open in July 2010. E-learning is an exciting area of development for us, as we will have over £1m spent on future technology ICT throughout our new school. All teachers already have a laptop, classrooms equipped with SMART whiteboards and we have a generous staff development (CPD) commitment. We actively encourage leadership and progression opportunities for staff. With all these initiatives we are entering a new era of teaching and learning and are a really motivated school.

The school is very conveniently located – 50 minutes to central London by train; 5 minutes to Ebbsfleet International Station; 15 minutes to the M25. Candidates are very welcome to visit the school. Please call to make arrangements.

If you think this sounds like an exciting opportunity, please telephone: 01474 566552 ext 208 or email k.allen@thamesview.kent.sch.uk for further information. Details are also available on our web site: www.thamesview.kent.sch.uk

CV's without an application form will not be accepted.

Successful candidates will be invited for interview at the school and our recommendations will then be passed to Christ Church College University, Canterbury. The University will then select candidates for further interview.

Closing date:
22nd March

Interviews:
week beginning
29th March

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of students.
Appointment to this post will require an Enhanced Disclosure via the Criminal Records Bureau.
Thamesview School operates a non-smoking policy

THAMESVIEW SCHOOL with Business & Enterprise Status
Thong Lane, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 4LF
Headteacher: **Miss R. Hughes** B.Ed Hons
Tel: 01474 566552 Fax: 01474 537405
email: school@thamesview.kent.sch.uk
Website: http://www.thamesview.kent.sch.uk

Inclusion Manager

Required for April 2010
37 hour per week (full time)
40 weeks per year (term time plus 2 weeks)
KCC Salary Scheme 7 (points 20-24) £20,262 to £23,053 pa
Pro rata to £17,486.10 - £19,894.73 pa
Lunch duty assistance 30 mins per day
Meetings as and when required after school

We wish to appoint an experienced and dedicated member of staff to the new permanent position of Inclusion Manager as part of the Beehive, Learning Support staff structure. You will be the key administrative, well-fare and progress development support for students with Social Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties (SEBD), line managing a SEBD LSA and be directly line managed by our Assistant Headteacher for Inclusion. The successful applicant must:

- Have strong interpersonal skills and demonstrate a high level of emotional intelligence to communicate effectively in sometimes challenging situations;
- be able to liaise and communicate confidently with outside agencies, parents, staff and students;
- be confident to work independently and multi-task;
- have a cheerful disposition, positive outlook, show confidence and contribute ideas to work within a team
- Be a creative worker to proactively develop strategies to support SEBD students;
- lead and manage all aspects of monitoring progress using data effectively and implement strategies to ensure achievement of identified SEBD students;
- be a positive role model supporting students with SEBD issues;
- be highly organised and able to manage your time well, when juggling a range of tasks.

After 4 years of innovative improvement, Thamesview has now been awarded 'Good' (2) by Ofsted (in February 2009) for our 'Overall Effectiveness'.

All staff will be given a laptop in the new school, and we have a generous CPD commitment to support staff improving their skills across a range of aspects.
We are in the current wave of Building Schools for the Future (BSF), so have a brand new school due to open in July 2010 with incredible facilities for indoor and outdoor learning. A purpose built inclusion area is currently being designed to replace our existing Beehive Unit.

CV's without an application form will not be accepted. You will be expected to submit a letter outlining your reasons for wanting this position with your application, together with evidence of how you have developed your own skills in readiness for this position. We are looking for the right person in this role, so if you think that you have the skills or the potential to put your stamp on this important role in the Inclusion structure then we want you to apply.

If you think this sounds exciting, please telephone: ext 208 or email k.allen@thamesview.kent.sch.uk for further information. Details are also available on our web site: www.thamesview.kent.sch.uk

Closing Date: 20th April 2010

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of students.
Appointment to this post will require an Enhanced Disclosure via the Criminal Records Bureau.
Thamesview School operates a non-smoking policy

The smart way to find your next job JobsforKent.co.uk

DATA MANAGER

Grade: **C1 - Salary: £16,830 - £22,221 per annum**
Hours: **37 hours per week - 8.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m. Monday to Friday, 36 minute lunch break**
Location: **Strood Academy, Carnation Road, Rochester, Kent, ME2 2SX**
Tel: **01634 717121**
e-mail: **info@stroodacademy.org**

We are looking to appoint as soon as possible a Data Manager to create oversee and develop the Academy's use of data to help drive Academy improvement. You will have excellent communication, numerical and organisational skills. You will also have a strong working knowledge of a range of ICT software including Microsoft Office, SIMS and in particular Excel.

Offer of appointment is subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

To apply, visit www.stroodacademy.org and download an application form and job description and find out further information about us.

Closing Date: **9th April 2010**

Interviews: **w/c 19th April 2010**

STROOD ACADEMY

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Teachers Needed
Primary, Secondary and SEN.

Capita Education Resourcing is the leading provider of educational staff throughout the UK.

Our dedicated and friendly Kent team can provide you with:

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Even if you can only spare one day a week we would love to hear from you.

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or email
enquiry.ers@capita.co.uk

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Committed to equal opportunities

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T: 01227 710392 | W: www.spiresacademy.com
Twin Specialisms: Business & Enterprise and Visual, Creative & Performing Arts

Spires ACADEMY

Literacy/ LRC Coordinator

We are seeking to appoint a forward thinking and creative Literacy/LRC Coordinator to work in our vibrant school community. The successful candidate will lead the development of Literacy across the Academy, as well as having the opportunity to implement their own vision for the Learning Resource Centre within the supportive environment of our Specialism for Business & Enterprise.

They will have proven experience of working with children in an educational setting, as well as of planning, monitoring and evaluating initiatives. Experience of working within a Learning Resource Centre or Library would be an advantage, but is not essential.

For further details and an application pack please contact Marion Wigington on 01227 710392 or at m.wigington@spiresacademy.com

Closing date: Noon, Friday 26th March 2010

Spires Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and expects all staff to share this commitment. The successful applicant will be subject to appropriate child protection screening including checks with previous employers and the Criminal Records Bureau.

Hugh Christie

TEACHER OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION FULL TIME COVERING MATERNITY LEAVE

A Teacher of Girls PE is required to cover for Maternity Leave to teach in a successful and supportive PE dept. of well qualified staff. Hugh Christie is a popular 11-18 school on a brand new state of the art campus in Tonbridge. This post offers an ideal opportunity for an NQT or for an experienced teacher seeking development opportunities. A commitment to extra curricular activities + lunchtimes is required as is the ability to teach Key stage 3 & 4 and all sports.
Application forms are available on our website (www.hughchristie.kent.sch.uk)
or contact Jenny Rutherford at jrutherford@hughchristie.kent.sch.uk or tel: 01732 353544 extn. 240.
Closing date 31st March 2010.

Nursery Vacancies

DAY NURSERIES

Dawn to Dusk Day Nursery Swanley Ltd a well established private company and also operating an Out of School Club with a further branch in Maidstone, have the following vacancies.

Level II Nursery Nurse

We are looking for someone with a positive attitude who can work well as part of a team. Full support for training towards level III, will be given - 40hrs a week.

After School Club Assistant - P/t

This position is to work in our Duskies Schools Out Club. Appropriate experience is required, a play work certificate preferred but not essential as training can be given. This is a part time position, Monday - Friday - Hours to be agreed.

To arrange an interview please telephone Janice Elliott on
01322 660330

Science LANGUAGE COLLEGE

Gravesend Grammar School for Girls
A Specialist Science and Language College

Pelham Road, Gravesend, Kent DA11 0JE
Telephone: 01474 352896 Fax: 01474 331195 Website:www.ggsg.org.uk
email: enquiries@ggsg.org.uk

TEACHER OF ENGLISH (Maternity Cover)
Required from June 2010, Main Professional Grade

We are seeking to appoint an enthusiastic and committed English teacher to cover maternity leave from 7th June to December 2010. The job provides an excellent opportunity for an ambitious teacher who is able to demonstrate a positive and creative approach in the classroom and contribute to the ongoing success of the English Faculty. The ideal candidate will be able to teach English to Key Stage 3, 4 and 5, although it may be possible to adjust the timetable to suit individual strengths and experiences. The ability to teach Media Studies A' Level would be an advantage, although not essential.

The School has a high profile for achievement locally and nationally and prides itself on a strong record of internal professional development including a full induction in the Summer term.

The School is also an Investor in People and an Investor in Careers.

We have been a Specialist Science College since September 2004 and a Specialist Language College since April 2009.

Application forms and further details are available from the Headteacher's Personal Assistant, Mrs M Tong Ralphs.
Completed forms should be returned by **Monday 29th March 2010** to Mrs Wilson, Headteacher.

The School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

www.ggsg.org.uk

To advertise in this section **01892 458204**

JobsforKent.co.uk

A selection of the 100s of Local Jobs online

Art and Design

Plate Maker

Ashford
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: 1st April 2010
Plate Maker: temporary cover for sickness leave Description: Working within a small Studio Team, you will be responsible for making and checking both Litho and Flexo plates and liaising with Production / planning staff. The role is methodical and quality focused requiring a good eye for detail. Specific tasks: • Outputting plates • Checking quality • Quality Assurance checks and paperwork • Monitoring Material stocks and refilling equipment with new material. In addition to this, the following skills are an advantage: • Apple Mac experience • Indigo Digital Press experience. Contact Details: Please send CV's to: Matt Knight - mknight@cclind.com CCL Label (Ashford) Limited Foster Road, Sevington Ashford, Kent TN24 0SH.
To apply/more information: CCL Label (Ashford) Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email mknight@cclind.com

Catering, Hospitality

Experienced Floor manager/ess

Ramsgate
Salary: TBA
Experienced Floor manager/ess and bar and wait staff Required at very busy Café restaurant at Ramsgate Sea front. For more information please call Heather - 07966 295070 Or email: cgoodwin2010@hotmail.co.uk
To apply/more information: Belgian Cafe
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 07966 295070
Email cgoodwin2010@hotmail.co.uk

WAITING STAFF

Tunbridge Wells
Salary: TBA
PART TIME WAITING STAFF Required for The Beacon, 1.5miles from Tunbridge Wells. Experienced preferred. Call Diego on 01892 524252.
To apply/more information: Beacon (The)
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01892 524252
Email beaconhotel@btopenworld.com

WAIT STAFF

Ramsgate
Salary: TBA
WAIT STAFF wanted for fine dining restaurant in Ramsgate. Experience essential. Must be able to work weekends and evenings. Please send CV to info@ageandsons.co.uk
To apply/more information: Age & Sons
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email info@ageandsons.co.uk

Assistant Chef

Ashford
Salary: TBA
Assistant Chef required for busy country pub with good reputation for fine food. Apply to Eric or Helen (between 9 & 12 noon). Tel: 01303 844663.
To apply/more information: Jack Daw Inn
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01303 844663
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Part time Cook

Thanet
Salary: TBA
Domestic Help 20 hours per week and also a Part time Cook 12 hours per week required at Care Home in Westgate on Sea. For more information. Please contact Debbie or Diane Tel: 01843 831491.
To apply/more information: Gordon Lodge
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01843 831491
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

CHEF

Ramsgate
Salary: TBA
A keen enthusiastic CHEF required at busy café restaurant at Ramsgate seafront For more information please call Heather - 07966 295070 or Andy - 07796 858617 Or email: cgoodwin2010@hotmail.co.uk
To apply/more information: Belgian Cafe
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email cgoodwin2010@hotmail.co.uk

Customer Service, Call Centre

Market Research Interviewers

Kent
Salary: £57.60-£63.72
Market Research Interviewers Earn £57.60-£63.72 for a 6 hour working day with travel allowance and holiday pay, interviewing people in their own homes after 12.30pm. Flexible work, no previous experience - full training given. NO SELLING. A good standard of English is required, along with landline phone and your own transport. To apply call or download an application form from our website. Please quote Reference No. 6793SC on all applications. Call 020 8433 4491 www.kantaroperations.com We are an equal opportunities employer. KANTAR OPERATIONS.
To apply/more information: Kantar Operations
Quoting Job Ref: 6793SC
Tel: 020 8433 4491
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Domestic

Cleaners

Tonbridge
Salary: TBA
No Bank Holidays, Weekends or Evenings Home Cleaning Company requires FULL TIME STAFF Mon-Fri 7.45am-4.15pm Drivers only 01732 359500.
To apply/more information: Merry Maid
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01732 359500
Email merrymaidsales@btconnect.com

Weekend Domestic cleaner

Faversham
Salary: TBA
Faversham Residential Home Requires a Weekend Domestic cleaner 9am - 2pm For further details Please telephone 01795 532629 Between 10am - 4pm.
To apply/more information: Carnalea Residential Home
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01795 532629
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Domestic Help

Thanet
Salary: TBA
Domestic Help 20 hours per week and also a Part time Cook 12 hours per week required at Care Home in Westgate on Sea. For more information. Please contact Debbie or Diane Tel: 01843 831491.
To apply/more information: Gordon Lodge
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01843 831491
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Education, Teacher, School

TEACHER OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Tonbridge
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: 31st March 2010
TEACHER OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION FULL TIME - COVERING MATERNITY LEAVE A Teacher of Girls PE is required to cover for Maternity Leave to teach in a successful and supportive PE dept. of well qualified staff. Hugh Christie is a popular 11-18 school on a brand new state of the art campus in Tonbridge. This post offers an ideal opportunity for an NQT or for an experienced teacher seeking development opportunities. A commitment to extra curricular activities + lunchtimes is required as is the ability to teach Key stage 3 & 4 and all sports. Further details of this post and an application form are available on our website (www.hughchristie.kent.sch.uk) or contact Jenny Rutherford at jrutherford@hughchristie.kent.sch.uk or tel: 01732 353544 extn. 240. Closing date 31st March 2010.
To apply/more information: Hugh Christie Technology College
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01732 353544 extn. 240
Email jrutherford@hughchristie.kent.sch.uk

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01892 458204

VOLUNTEERS

Medway
Salary: Expenses Paid
Nacro is the principal crime reduction charity in England and Wales. It works to reduce crime by delivering a range of socially inclusive crime prevention initiatives by working for a fair and effective criminal justice system and by resettling offenders. Nacro Services in Kent and Medway offers vocational and skills training to young people aged 14-19years / adult learners and those who wish to improve their literacy and numeracy. Our aim is to motivate raise self-esteem and increase self confidence through effective training and skills development to progress our learners into education, training or employment. As our provision extends we are looking for lively, self motivated individuals who enjoy the challenge of working with people of all ages but, in particular, young people. VOLUNTEERS We are looking for people who like to volunteer to support the learners in our Centres in various roles e.g. mentoring, support for Skills for Life, in particular reception type duties at our Pathways Centre. Travel and lunch expenses are paid. Contact colin.farrow@nacro.org.uk or call Colin Farrow on 01634 818305 for an application pack.
To apply/more information: Nacro Services Kent
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01634 818305
Email colin.farrow@nacro.org.uk

EYFS/KS1 TEACHER

Ramsgate
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: Thursday 1 April
St. Lawrence College JUNIOR SCHOOL, RAMSGATE, KENT CT11 7AF Co-ed. IAPS Day & Boarding School: 190 pupils aged 3-11 Required as soon as possible, part-time (0.2) EYFS/KS1 TEACHER A suitably qualified teacher to join our dedicated Lower School team to provide cover for members of the senior leadership team, one day a week, or the equivalent Required for September 2010, full-time resident BOARDING HOUSEMOTHER A suitably experienced, energetic and warmhearted person to support the Housemaster in caring for our Junior/Middle School boarders (8-13), taking particular responsibility for the Juniors (8-11), in exceptional, purpose-built accommodation in Kirby House. Comfortable, self-contained flat provided all year round For further details on both posts, and an application form, phone 01843 572912 or email hjs@slcuk.com Deadline for applications: Thursday 1 April St Lawrence College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, and expects all staff to share this commitment.
To apply/more information: St Lawerence College
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01843 572912
Email hjs@slcuk.com

BOARDING HOUSEMOTHER

Ramsgate
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: Thursday 1 April
St. Lawrence College JUNIOR SCHOOL, RAMSGATE, KENT CT11 7AF Co-ed. IAPS Day & Boarding School: 190 pupils aged 3-11 Required as soon as possible, part-time (0.2) EYFS/KS1 TEACHER A suitably qualified teacher to join our dedicated Lower School team to provide cover for members of the senior leadership team, one day a week, or the equivalent Required for September 2010, full-time resident BOARDING HOUSEMOTHER A suitably experienced, energetic and warmhearted person to support the Housemaster in caring for our Junior/Middle School boarders (8-13), taking particular responsibility for the Juniors (8-11), in exceptional, purpose-built accommodation in Kirby House. Comfortable, self-contained flat provided all year round For further details on both posts, and an application form, phone 01843 572912 or email hjs@slcuk.com Deadline for applications: Thursday 1 April St Lawrence College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, and expects all staff to share this commitment.
To apply/more information: St Lawerence College
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01843 572912
Email hjs@slcuk.com

TEACHER OF ENGLISH

Gravesend
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: Monday 29th March 2010
Gravesend Grammar School for Girls TEACHER OF ENGLISH (Maternity Cover) Required from June 2010 Main Professional Grade We are seeking to appoint an enthusiastic and committed English teacher to cover maternity leave from 7th June to December 2010. The job provides an excellent opportunity for an ambitious teacher who is able to demonstrate a positive and creative approach in the classroom and contribute to the ongoing success of the English Faculty. The ideal candidate will be able to teach English to Key Stage 3, 4 and 5, although it may be possible to adjust the timetable to suit individual strengths and experiences. The ability to teach Media Studies A' Level would be an advantage, although not essential. The School has a high profile for achievement locally and nationally and prides itself on a strong record of internal professional development including a full induction in the Summer term. The School is also an Investor in People and an Investor in Careers. We have been a Specialist Science College since September 2004 and a Specialist Language College since April 2009. Application forms and further details are available from the Headteacher's Personal Assistant, Mrs M Tong Ralphs. Completed forms should be returned by Monday 29th March 2010 to Mrs Wilson, Headteacher. A Specialist Science and Language College Pelham Road, Gravesend, Kent DA11 0JE Telephone: 01474 352896 Fax: 01474 331195 Website:www.ggsg.org.uk email: enquiries@ggsg.org.uk The School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. www.ggsg.org.uk
To apply/more information: Gravesend Grammar School for Girl
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01474 352896
Email enquiries@ggsg.org.uk

Data Manager

Medway
Salary: £16,830 - £22,221 per annum
Closing Date: 9th April 2010
Data Manager Grade: C1 - **Salary:** £16,830 - £22,221 per annum Hours: 37 hours per week - 8.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m. Monday to Friday, 36 minute lunch break Location: Strood Academy Carnation Road, Rochester, Kent, ME2, 2SX Tel: 01634 717121 e-mail: info@stroodacademy.org. We are looking to appoint as soon as possible a Data Manager to create oversee and develop the Academy's use of data to help drive Academy improvement. You will have excellent communication, numerical and organisational skills. You will also have a strong working knowledge of a range of ICT software including Microsoft Office, SIMS and in particular Excel. Offer of appointment is subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure. To apply, visit www.stroodacademy.org and download an application form and job description and find out further information about us. Interviews: w/c 19th April 2010.
To apply/more information: Strood Academy
Quoting Job Ref: KOS
Tel: 01634 717121
Email info@stroodacademy.org

Inclusion Manger

Gravesend
Salary: £17,486.10 - £19,894.73 pa
Closing Date: 20th April 2010
Inclusion Manger Required for April 2010 37 hour per week (full time) 40 weeks per year (term time plus 2 weeks) KCC Salary Scheme 7 (points 20-24) £20,262 to £23,053 pa Pro rata to £17,486.10 - £19,894.73 pa Lunch duty assistance 30 mins per day Meetings as and when required after school We wish to appoint an experienced and dedicated member of staff to the new permanent position of Inclusion Manager as part of the Beehive, Learning Support staff structure. You will be the key administrative, well-fare and progress development support for students with Social Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties (SEBD), line managing a SEBD LSA and be directly line managed by our Assistant Headteacher for Inclusion. The successful applicant must: • Have strong interpersonal skills and demonstrate a high level of emotional intelligence to communicate effectively in sometimes challenging situations; • be able to liaise and communicate confidently with outside agencies, parents, staff and students; • be confident to work independently and multi-task; • have a cheerful disposition, positive outlook, show confidence and contribute ideas to work within a team • Be a creative worker to proactively develop strategies to support SEBD students; • lead and manage all aspects of monitoring progress using data effectively and implement strategies to ensure achievement of identified SEBD students; • be a positive role model supporting students with SEBD issues; • be highly organised and able to manage your time well, when juggling a range of tasks. After 4 years of innovative improvement, Thamesview has now been awarded 'Good' (2) by Ofsted (in February 2009) for our 'Overall Effectiveness'. All staff will be given a laptop in the new school, and we have a generous CPD commitment to support staff improving their skills across a range of aspects. We are in the current wave of Building Schools for the Future (BSF), so have a brand new school due to open in July 2010 with incredible facilities for indoor and outdoor learning. A purpose built inclusion area is currently being designed to replace our existing Beehive Unit. CV's without an application form will not be accepted. You will be expected to submit a letter outlining your reasons for wanting this position with your application, together with evidence of how you have developed your own skills in readiness for this position. We are looking for the right person in this role, so if you think that you have the skills or the potential to put your stamp on this important role in the Inclusion structure then we want you to apply. If you think this sounds exciting, please telephone: ext 208 or email k.allen@thamesview.kent.sch.uk for further information. Details are also available on our web site: www.thamesview.kent.sch.uk The school is very conveniently located - 50 minutes to central London by train; 5 minutes to Ebbsfleet International Station; 15 minutes to the M25. Candidates are very welcome to visit the school. Please call to make arrangements. We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of students. Appointment to this post will require an Enhanced Disclosure via the Criminal Records Bureau. Thamesview School operates a non-smoking policy.
To apply/more information: Thames View Junior School
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email k.allen@thamesview.kent.sch.uk

Engineering, Manufacturing, Utilities

Electrically Biased Site Supervisor

Kent
Salary: TBA
Electrically Biased Site Supervisor required by a Nationally based Specialist Company working within the Medical Pre-Installation field. Negotiated Package. Computer experience essential. Must be willing to work away from home. E-mailed C.V. applications only to smiller@avenue building.co.uk NO AGENCIES NO TELEPHONE CALLS.
To apply/more information: Avenue Building Company Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email smiller@avenuebuilding.co.uk

FIELD SERVICE ENGINEER

Sevenoaks
Salary: TBA
FIELD SERVICE ENGINEER Versatile Field Service Engineer required for a small company based in Sevenoaks. Duties to include the Service and Calibration of Laboratory Equipment. This is an interesting as well as very responsible position. The ideal candidate would need to be flexible, forward thinking and organised. Electro-mechanical and refrigeration experience essential. Must be prepared to travel throughout UK To apply please Telephone: 01732 743901.
To apply/more information: LMS Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01732 743901
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Graduate, Trainees

Volunteer Trainee Community Engagement Placement

Canterbury
Salary: Unsalaried but offers a training budget
Closing Date: Thursday 8th April 2010
This 11 months role is unsalaried but offers a training budget (3 days per week) Job Title: Volunteer Trainee Community Engagement Placement. Interview Date: Tuesday 20th April 2010 Based at Mayton Oast, near Canterbury The role: an exciting opportunity to develop your skills and practical experience by assisting the Community Engagement Officer with the delivery of education and community activities at Blean Woodlands. Some weekend/evening work may be involved. You: will have a professional, mature approach and possess the ability to communicate effectively with the public. Enthusiasm for working with young people and adults in a variety of settings is essential, as is your interest in environmental issues. Kent Wildlife Trust is the leading wildlife charity for Kent and Medway. This post requires an Enhanced Disclosure from the Criminal Records Bureau. Contact details: To discuss this post please contact Paul Dorrington on 01622 662012 or Kathryn Barton 01227 719506. For an application pack please visit www.kentwildlifetrust. org.uk or telephone Dot Hughes 01622 662012, email dot.hughes@kentwildlife.org.uk Kent Wildlife Trust has a positive approach to equality and welcomes applications from all sectors of the community.
To apply/more information: Kent Wildlife Trust
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01622 662012
Email dot.hughes@kentwildlife.org.uk

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Management, Senior Positions

Commercial Manager

Ramsgate
Salary: TBA
Commercial Manager An experienced Commercial Manager is required to head up our team of estimators working as a specialist subcontractor in the social housing refurbishment sector. With contract values up to £6.5 million pa, candidates must be able to demonstrate expertise, flair and innovation in the preparation of Tenders, PQQ's and managing and assisting in Partnering Submissions for RSL's and Local Authorities as well as liasing closely with the commercial sales team and assisting with job cost feed back. Based at the company's Head Office in Ramsgate, Kent, there will be a requirement for visits to sites and meetings with clients. Offered is a salary appropriate to your experience, together with contributory pension scheme. Please apply in writing to Commercial, PO Box 462, Ramsgate, Kent, CT11 1AW.
To apply/more information: Piper Windows
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

QUALITY AND SYSTEMS IMPROVEMENT MANAGER

Medway
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: 14th April 2010
IPS INTERNATIONAL Ltd QUALITY AND SYSTEMS IMPROVEMENT MANAGER IPS International is a successful and expanding training business based in Rochester. We train in the fields of Engineering and Manufacturing, Social Care, Management and Business Services. Funded training is provided for apprentices and adults together with commercial training in all areas of the business. This new role involves the development and co-ordination of quality and systems improvement throughout the business and the introduction of performance measures to meet the requirements of Government funding, Ofsted and the marketplace. Initially the role will include: • Reviewing and updating existing policies and procedures. • Developing new policies and procedures. • Conducting internal audits. • Co-ordinating the production of Self Assessment Reports. • Networking with other training providers on quality issues. • Co-ordinating the development of Safeguarding policies. • Communicating with, and training, IPS staff and associates. The successful applicant will work closely with the Senior Management Team to further develop the necessary quality expertise and will be capable of drafting accurate and precise documents and working collaboratively. Good IT skills will be required as will self motivation and the ability to maintain accurate and timely records. To apply, please provide a CV plus accompanying letter explaining your suitability for the role to Michael Henderson at the address below by the closing date of 14th April 2010. IPS is an equal opportunities employer; we welcome applicants from all sectors of the community, including minority groups, and we are committed to safeguarding young people and vulnerable adults IPS International Ltd Sir Thomas Longley Road Medway City Estate, Rochester Kent, ME2 4DU E: theoffice@IPS-International.com
To apply/more information: IPS International Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email theoffice@IPS-International.com

Marketing, Advertising

Marketing Managers

Folkestone
Salary: Competitive salaries + excellent benefits
Permanent and Fixed Term Opportunities. Be inspired. First of all, by a leading direct marketing brand that's driven by imaginative thinking, new ideas and innovation. A team of

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people who work together to create and deliver fresh marketing solutions and generate outstanding results. Secondly, our superb location. You'll be based in a tranquil open parkland setting, right next to the sea. And finally, by this exciting opportunity to raise your career profile with a hugely successful brand which incorporates Personal Finance and Insurance. In return for your hard work, there's excellent support, training and development, not to mention superb benefits including private healthcare, pension scheme, crèche, social club and discounts on insurance products, holidays and flights for you and your relatives. You'll have a relevant professional qualification and experience of direct marketing gained in either financial services or insurance. In addition, you'll also have experience of managing a busy team. So if you're brimming with ideas and have a 'right first time' approach, then we'd like to hear from you. To apply, please write enclosing your CV and current remuneration details to Sally-Jane Plenge, Senior HR Officer, Saga Group Limited, Enbrook Park, Folkestone, Kent CT20 3SE or e-mail human.resources@saga.co.uk Please quote reference SPF380/JFK.
To apply/more information: Sally-Jane Plenge Saga
Quoting Job Ref: SPF380/JFK
Email human.resources@saga.co.uk

Motor Trade, Driver

Trainee Service Advisor x 2

Dartford
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information: Sparshatts of Kent Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email donna.berllaque@mercedes.co.uk

Service Advisor

Tunbridge Wells
Salary: TBA
Sparshatts of Kent Ltd Mercedes-Benz Van & Truck Dealers Two positions have arisen for a Trainee Service Advisor at our Dartford depot and a Service Advisor at our Tunbridge Wells depot. Your role will be to guide our customers through the service process from initial booking to the return of their commercial vehicle. You will have excellent customer facing skills gained in a similar role, an excellent telephone manner, high standards of personal appearance, IT keyboard skills and a full clean driving license. Please apply in writing, including your curriculum vitae or by email to Donna Berllaque, Assistant to Service Managers, Sparshatts of Kent Ltd, Unit 10 Eurolink Industrial Estate, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 3RN. Email: donna.berllaque@mercedes.co.uk
To apply/more information: Sparshatts of Kent Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: KOS
Email donna.berllaque@mercedes.co.uk

Part Time Drivers and Child Supervisors

Tonbridge
Salary: TBA
Part Time Drivers & Child Supervisors required for home to school transport (not owner drivers). Term time only. ALSO Weekend Taxi Drivers Help with Licence fees. Clean Licence. Tonbridge Call Dan on 01732 355866.
To apply/more information: GMS Travel Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01732 355866
Email gmstravel@btconnect.com

Weekend Taxi Drivers

Tonbridge
Salary: TBA
Weekend Taxi Drivers Help with Licence fees. Clean Licence. Tonbridge Call Dan on 01732 355866.
To apply/more information: GMS Travel Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01732 355866
Email gmstravel@btconnect.com

Coach Body and Paint Repairs Technician

Medway
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information: Kings Ferry
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email sarah.hackett@thekingsferry.co.uk

Nursing, Medicine, Care Work

Home Carers

Maidstone
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: Thursday 1 April 2010
Home Carers Audley Care is seeking individuals to deliver high quality care and domestic support to our clients living in their own homes in and around theMaidstone area. Successful candidates will have their own transport, ideally have experience working in a care environment as well as having, or be willing to work towards, an NVQ2 qualification. In return we offer good hourly rates, flexible working hours, comprehensive training and an exciting career opportunity to join this rapidly expanding business. To apply or for further information please contact Jane Wilson on 01622 633101 or email janew@audleycare.co.uk We have various shifts to fulfil (inc. days, evenings, weekends and bank holidays) therefore when applying please state your preferred days and hours of work. Closing date: Thursday 1 April 2010 An enhanced CRB check will be undertaken for successful applicants. www.audleycare.co.uk
To apply/more information: Audley Care
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01622 633101
Email janew@audleycare.co.uk

COMMUNITY SUPPORT WORKERS

Tonbridge
Salary: £8.25 to £10.00 per hour
WANT A NEW CAREER WITH FULL-TIME HOURS? COMMUNITY SUPPORT WORKERS REQUIRED IN TONBRIDGE, SEVENOAKS & TUNBRIDGE WELLS o Self Employed basis only o £8.25 to £10.00 per hour o Full-time starting at 7am o You need to be happy taking responsibility and working with older people on your own o Must have own car and phone o Uniform provided o Full Training programme available Experience preferred but not essential. All applicants subject to Enhanced CRB Check. CALL ELAINE/JULIA ON 01892 529429 FOR AN INTERVIEW www.terrablu.co.uk An Investor in People Employer.
To apply/more information: TerraBlu Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01892 529429
Email emma.foard@terrablu.co.uk

Sessional Support Workers

Ashford
Salary: £8.30 -£9.46 per hour
Closing Date: 1st April 2010
Sessional Support Workers £8.30 -£9.46 per hour Based in Ashford Contract from April 2010 to March 2011 (subject to funding) Thanet Children's Participation Project works with children and young people to enable them to engage in positive activities, contributing to their communities and making their voices and opinions heard. We're looking to expand our team of fun, creative and approachable Disability Support Workers. As a Sessional Worker your focus will be to provide support and positive play and leisure experiences for children and young people with disabilities, in a scheme that runs on 2 weekend days per month, 15 days during the school summer holidays, and an additional 2.5 days during the October half term. You'll need to have experience of working with children and young people with disabilities, knowledge and understanding of the issues facing disabled children and young people, and the ability to engage with young people using participative methods in an informal setting. Reliability and punctuality are a critical element of this role. You'll be educated to GCSE standard (or equivalent). Hours for this post will be variable and appointment is subject to an enhanced CRB disclosure. For an informal discussion about this role, please contact Donna Ramm on 01843 596659. As well as a strong commitment to your development, we offer generous holidays, contributory stakeholder pension, childcare vouchers and flexible working. To apply, please visit www.playyourpart.co.uk or call us on 0121 362 8633 quoting reference number S01718/KS. Closing date: 1st April 2010. All recruitment documents are available in alternative formats. Please note that CVs will not be accepted. The Children's Society is a leading children's charity committed to making childhood better. We work with children across the country, providing the right support at the right time. We commissioned The Good Childhood®Inquiry; the UK's first independent national inquiry into childhood. Its aims were to renew society's understanding of modern childhood and to inform, improve and inspire all our relationships with children. Charity Registration No. 221124 We strive to be an equal opportunities employer.
To apply/more information: Childrens Society
Quoting Job Ref: S01718/KS
Tel: 0121 362 8633
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

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To advertise in this section or online
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Young Persons' Substance Misuse Worker

Gravesend
Salary: £21,519 - £27,849
Closing Date: 6 April 2010
To apply/more information: KCA (UK)
Quoting Job Ref: 637
Tel: 01795 590635
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Psychological Therapist

Faversham
Salary: £21,519 - £27,849 PRO RATA
Closing Date: 16 April 2010
Psychological Therapist £21,519 - £27,849 PRO RATA, PER ANNUM ESSENTIAL CAR USER ALLOWANCE OF UP TO £1,170 PRO RATA, PER ANNUM PART TIME, 25 HOURS PER WEEK EVENINGS MAY BE REQUIRED BASED INFAVERSHAM, WORKINGACROSS CANTERBURY & COASTAL DISTRICT KCA (UK) provides a wide range of high quality, innovative primary care mental health services, including Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT), part of our Psychological Therapy Providers (PTP) service. We offer a strong departmental framework with regular clinical supervision, line management, monthly team meetings and effective administration. We require an experienced psychological therapist to work with adult clients in our well established service providing short term therapy within GP practices. The number of sessions and available working days will be negotiated to meet the needs of the contracted service. You should be qualified to a minimum of diploma level. Knowledge and skills in cognitive behavioural therapy, EMDR, interpersonal therapy and couple work are highly desirable and you should be eligible for either BACP/BABCP accreditation or UKCP registration. If you are currently employed by the NHS we will arrange for you to remain in the NHS pension scheme. For an informal discussion of the above post please contact Lesley Rogers, Clinical Manager on 01795 590212 (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday). An application form and job description can be downloaded from www.kca.org.uk or call 01795 590635. Please quote reference number 644. Closing date: 16 April 2010. Interview date: 30 April 2010 in Faversham. KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all. Charity No: 292824.
To apply/more information: KCA (UK)
Quoting Job Ref: 644
Tel: 01795 590635
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Mental Health Employment and Vocational Team Leader

Gravesend
Salary: £22,344-£25,589
Closing Date: 6th April 2010
To apply/more information: MCCH
Quoting Job Ref: 689/E
Tel: 0845 600 1552
Email jobs@mcch.co.uk

SENIOR SUPPORT WORKERS

Sittingbourne
Salary: £15,250
ACH is a fast-growing organisation, developing new, highquality residential homes for adults with Learning Disabilities. Due to our continued growth we now requirethe following staff to complement our team at our homes in BOBBING AND STROOD www.achuk.com BOBBING SENIOR SUPPORT WORKERS Salary from £15,250 SUPPORT WORKERS Salary from £13,250 NIGHT SUPPORT WORKERS Salary from £13,250 STROOD SENIOR SUPPORT WORKERS Salary from £15,250 For an application pack please visit our website at www.achuk.com Alternatively e-mail louise.burrows@achuk.com or contact Human Resources on 0208 502 8849.
To apply/more information: ACH Care Homes Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: KOS
Tel: 0208 502 8849
Email louise.burrows@achuk.com

SUPPORT WORKERS

Sittingbourne
Salary: £13,250
ACH is a fast-growing organisation, developing new, highquality residential homes for adults with Learning Disabilities. Due to our continued growth we now requirethe following staff to complement our team at our homes in BOBBING AND STROOD www.achuk.com BOBBING SENIOR SUPPORT WORKERS Salary from £15,250 SUPPORT WORKERS Salary from £13,250 NIGHT SUPPORT WORKERS Salary from £13,250 STROOD SENIOR SUPPORT WORKERS Salary from £15,250 For an application pack please visit our website at www.achuk.com Alternatively e-mail louise.burrows@achuk.com or contact Human Resources on 0208 502 8849.
To apply/more information: ACH Care Homes Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 0208 502 8849
Email louise.burrows@achuk.com

NIGHT SUPPORT WORKERS

Sittingbourne
Salary: £13,250
ACH is a fast-growing organisation, developing new, highquality residential homes for adults with Learning Disabilities. Due to our continued growth we now requirethe following staff to complement our team at our homes in BOBBING AND STROOD www.achuk.com BOBBING SENIOR SUPPORT WORKERS Salary from £15,250 SUPPORT WORKERS Salary from £13,250 NIGHT SUPPORT WORKERS Salary from £13,250 STROOD SENIOR SUPPORT WORKERS Salary from £15,250 For an application pack please visit our website at www.achuk.com Alternatively e-mail louise.burrows@achuk.com or contact Human Resources on 0208 502 8849.
To apply/more information: ACH Care Homes Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 0208 502 8849
Email louise.burrows@achuk.com

SENIOR SUPPORT WORKERS

Medway
Salary: £15,250
ACH is a fast-growing organisation, developing new, highquality residential homes for adults with Learning Disabilities. Due to our continued growth we now requirethe following staff to complement our team at our homes in BOBBING AND STROOD www.achuk.com BOBBING SENIOR SUPPORT WORKERS Salary from £15,250 SUPPORT WORKERS Salary from £13,250 NIGHT SUPPORT WORKERS Salary from £13,250 STROOD SENIOR SUPPORT WORKERS Salary from £15,250 For an application pack please visit our website at www.achuk.com Alternatively e-mail louise.burrows@achuk.com or contact Human Resources on 0208 502 8849.
To apply/more information: ACH Care Homes Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 0208 502 8849
Email louise.burrows@achuk.com

Care Staff

Canterbury
Salary: TBA
Littlebourne House Care Home A busy family run home require dedicated Care Staff - Full time 12 hour shifts Experience not essential as training provided Pay according to experience and qualifications also Domestic/ Cleaners - Full time Please call Amanda 01227 721527.
To apply/more information: Littlebourne House
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 721527
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Night Staff

Sevenoaks
Salary: TBA
Due to expansion Night Staff required for busy Residential home good rates of pay and bonus NVQ training available. Please ring Debbie Or Karen on 01732 822215.
To apply/more information: Holywell Park Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01732 822215
Email debbieholywell@aol.com

Retail, Wholesale, Sales

Sales Reps

Kent
Salary: £700+ pw OTE
You Missed It !!! 6 weeks ago we advertised probably the BEST job ever. The lucky candidates are now making in excess of £700+ pw OTE. We now need 5 more. If you have a car and phone, call for more info - 0800 840 1289 No experience necessary as full training can be provided.
To apply/more information: Anglian Home Improvements
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 0800 840 1289
Email clare.jackson@angliangroup.com

Sales Position

Thanet
Salary: TBA
Quex Park Estates Quex Foods Representative to cover the Kent area is urgently required for our exciting new food venture. Sales experience in the food industry is preferred but not essential. Enthusiasm, tenacity, confidence, & self motivation will be essential in this role to Service our existing clients & develop new retail outlets. *Flexible working hours to suit excellent candidate *Remuneration by negotiation For Immediate start. Apply with CV via email to: quexpark enquiries@btconnect.com quoting ref: QF010. To discuss please phone Angie Curwen on 07890 431999.
To apply/more information: Quex Museum Enterprises Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: QF010
Tel: 07890 431999
Email quexparkenquiries@btconnect.com

Door-to-Door Membership Recruiters

Kent
Salary: TBA
Door-to-Door Membership Recruiters (fixed term contract) Generous commission with good earning potential or guaranteed minimum wage. Hours: Flexible to suit - from 10hrs per week. Ideal for flexible weekend/ evening/ summer work. Location: specified area/s of Kent (own transport desirable but public transport can be used.) We need enthusiastic people with a flair for communication, to recruit new members, usually in your local area, using a soft approach. Sales/fundraising experience desirable. Please apply as soon as possible Interview date to be notified. For further information please contact Dot Hughes on 01622 662012; email dot.hughes@ kentwildlife.org.uk or visit www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk KWT has a positive approach to equality and welcomes applications from all sectors of the community.
To apply/more information: Kent Wildlife Trust
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01622 662012
Email dot.hughes@kentwildlife.org.uk

Head of Door-to-Door Membership Recruiters

Kent
Salary: TBA
Head of Door-to-Door Membership Recruiters (fixed term contract) Generous additional commission paid Generous commission with good earning potential or guaranteed minimum wage. Hours: Flexible to suit - from 10hrs per week. Ideal for flexible weekend/ evening/ summer work. Location: specified area/s of Kent (own transport desirable but public transport can be used.) In addition to the above skills you will lead and motivate your Door-to-Door team. You will have administrative, organisational and leadership skills. Kent Wildlife Trust is the leading wildlife charity for Kent & Medway supported by over 30,000 members. Interviews will be held on 31st March 2010 For further information please contact Dot Hughes on 01622 662012; email dot.hughes@ kentwildlife.org.uk or visit www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk KWT has a positive approach to equality and welcomes applications from all sectors of the community.
To apply/more information: Kent Wildlife Trust
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01622 662012
Email dot.hughes@kentwildlife.org.uk

INBOUND AND OUTBOUND SALES

Folkestone
Salary: £10,856 - £13,000+
Closing Date: 9 April 2010
OPPORTUNITIES IN INBOUND AND OUTBOUND SALES Basic salary of £10,856 - £13,000+ • OTE £16k - £18k+ (basic salary and uncapped commission) Excellent benefits packages | Folkestone and Thanet It's real people we are after... people who will listen to customers, take the time to understand their needs and build a genuine rapport with them. That's what we call doing things properly for our customers as we deliver great service, selling our products to people aged 50 and over. And if you can help us achieve that, we'll do things properly for you too. You'll get excellent training and development at every stage and your hard work will be rewarded with the chance to earn additional bonuses, incentive trips, entry to our elite Top Producers' Club and unlimited earnings potential. There are also superb benefits including private healthcare, pension scheme, social club and discounts on insurance products, holidays and flights for you and your relatives. What's more, it means a friendly working environment - as well as all the support you need to do a terrific job. The question is, have you got what it takes? You'll need to be target driven and able to rise to new challenges, that's for sure. If it's time for you to enjoy the rewards you deserve please write enclosing an application form, quoting reference SVS375/KOS to Mark Mear, Group Director of Sales, c/o Human Resources Department, Saga Group Limited, Enbrook Park, Folkestone, Kent CT20 3SE or email: human.resources@saga.co.uk Please call 01303 774888 for an application form or download one from our website. Closing date: 9 April 2010. saga.co.uk
To apply/more information: Saga
Quoting Job Ref: SVS375/KOS
Tel: 01303 774888
Email human.resources@saga.co.uk

100s more jobs online
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To advertise in this section or online
01892 458204

ASSISTANT MANAGER

Sevenoaks
Salary: TBA
We currently have the following vacancies: ASSISTANT MANAGER - SEVENOAKS HOME MANAGER - BLUEWATER MANAGER - ORPINGTON Applicants will need to have a proven track record in either a retail or sales environment. If you are interested in applying for any of the above positions send your CV and covering letter to: Andrea Wiltshire, Laura Ashley, 62 High Street, Bromley, Kent, BR1 1EY Region7. careers@lauraashley.com Laura Ashley is an equal opportunities employer www.lauraashley.com
To apply/more information: Laura Ashley
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email Region7.careers@lauraashley.com

HOME MANAGER

Dartford
Salary: TBA
We currently have the following vacancies: ASSISTANT MANAGER - SEVENOAKS HOME MANAGER - BLUEWATER MANAGER - ORPINGTON Applicants will need to have a proven track record in either a retail or sales environment. If you are interested in applying for any of the above positions send your CV and covering letter to: Andrea Wiltshire, Laura Ashley, 62 High Street, Bromley, Kent, BR1 1EY Region7. careers@lauraashley.com Laura Ashley is an equal opportunities employer www.lauraashley.com
To apply/more information: Laura Ashley
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email Region7.careers@lauraashley.com

MANAGER

Orpington
Salary: TBA
We currently have the following vacancies: ASSISTANT MANAGER - SEVENOAKS HOME MANAGER - BLUEWATER MANAGER - ORPINGTON Applicants will need to have a proven track record in either a retail or sales environment. If you are interested in applying for any of the above positions send your CV and covering letter to: Andrea Wiltshire, Laura Ashley, 62 High Street, Bromley, Kent, BR1 1EY Region7. careers@lauraashley.com Laura Ashley is an equal opportunities employer www.lauraashley.com
To apply/more information: Laura Ashley
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email Region7.careers@lauraashley.com

BATHROOM DESIGNER

Tunbridge Wells
Salary: TBA
BATHROOM DESIGNER & TRAINEE BATHROOM DESIGNER Our showroom in Tunbridge Wells requires showroom based innovative, yet practical design/sales consultants. You will: Help customers explore their needs, stimulate their imagination and create bathrooms that meet their every expectation. You need: To be a good communicator. To have excellent drawing skills. To work under pressure and unsupervised. To attend site visits. To work flexibly. To have a current driving licence. We offer: A good salary package plus commission Extensive training and an opportunity to excel at the highest level in bathroom design. Applications in writing marked Private & Confidential to: Colin Payne Ripples 12 Union Square Eridge Road Tunbridge Wells TN4 8HE cpayne@ripples.ltd.uk www.ripples.ltd.uk
To apply/more information: Ripples Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email cpayne@ripples.ltd.uk

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACTS – NOTICES OF APPLICATIONS

The following applications have been submitted to the Council and are being advertised for the reason(s) given in each case.

TM/10/00139/FL – 122 Wateringbury Road East Malling West Malling Kent ME19 6JD – Mr Mathew Davis is applying for change of use of agricultural land to residential use, erection of agricultural fencing, erection of oak framed garage, vehicular crossover, driveway and gates. Reason: DEPART

TM/10/00540/FL – 2 Dukes Place Farm Cottages Mereworth Road West Peckham Maidstone Kent ME18 5JH – Mr & Mrs N Williams are applying for demolition of existing conservatory and erection of part two storey/part single storey side extension and front porch. Reason: CA HH

TM/10/00516/FL – Pippin Borough Green Road Wrotham Sevenoaks TN15 7RA – Ms Alison Riley is applying to convert integral garage to habitable room and internal and external alterations. Reason: CA HH

TM/10/00353/FL – 23 Upper Spring Lane Ightham Sevenoaks Kent TN15 9DP – Mr Nield is applying for two rear dormers and two front rooflights. Reason: CA HH

Reasons for the case being publicised:

CA Application is within/affects a Conservation Area
DEPART Application does not accord with the Development Plan
HH Householder application - As this is a householder application, in the event of an appeal against a refusal of planning permission, which is to be dealt with on the basis of representations in writing, any representations made about this application will be sent to the Secretary of State, and there will be no further opportunity to comment at appeal stage.

These applications are displayed on our website www.tmbc.gov.uk – click on the button "Online Planning" (then View Existing Applications and select Public Access). You can submit your comments by emailing to planning.applications@tmbc.gov.uk (please quote the application number by the date set out below). Please note that we will publish a copy of any representations received on the Council's website, including your name and address.

Copies of applications listed may be seen during office hours (8.30 am and 5.00 pm Monday to Friday). Any applications within Hadlow, Hildenborough and Tonbridge are available at Tonbridge Castle, Tonbridge. Other applications are available at the office of the Director of Planning, Transport & Leisure, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4LZ. Any representations should be made in writing quoting the application number by 18 April 2010.

David Hughes
Chief Executive

28 March 2010

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

HIGHWAYS AGENCY

HIGHWAYS AGENCY
NOTICE OF INTENTION TO HOLD A PUBLIC INQUIRY
THE HIGHWAYS ACT 1980
THE ACQUISITION OF LAND ACT 1981

1. **THE A21 TRUNK ROAD (TONBRIDGE TO PEMBURY DUALLING) ORDER 20..**
2. **THE A21 TRUNK ROAD (TONBRIDGE TO PEMBURY DUALLING) (DETRUNKING) ORDER 20..**
3. **THE A21 TRUNK ROAD (TONBRIDGE TO PEMBURY DUALLING SIDE ROADS) ORDER 20..**
4. **THE A21 TRUNK ROAD (TONBRIDGE BYPASS TO PEMBURY BYPASS DUALLING) ORDER 1996 (REVOCATION) ORDER 20..**
5. **THE A21 TRUNK ROAD (TONBRIDGE BYPASS TO PEMBURY BYPASS DUALLING SIDE ROADS) ORDER 1996 (REVOCATION) ORDER 20..**
6. **THE A21 TRUNK ROAD (TONBRIDGE BYPASS TO PEMBURY BYPASS DUALLING SLIP ROADS) ORDER 1996 (REVOCATION) ORDER 20..**
7. **THE A21 TRUNK ROAD (TONBRIDGE BYPASS TO PEMBURY BYPASS DUALLING) (DETRUNKING) ORDER 1996 (REVOCATION) ORDER 20..**
8. **THE A21 TRUNK ROAD (TONBRIDGE TO PEMBURY DUALLING) COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Public Local Inquiries will be held into:

a) the Secretary of State for Transport's proposals for the Orders listed above; and

b) the objections which have been made in connection with these proposals.

A person nominated by the Planning Inspectorate will hold Public Local Inquiries into the Orders listed above.

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that in accordance with Rule 5(2) of the Highways (Inquiries Procedure) Rules 1994 and Rule 4(a) of the Compulsory Purchase (Inquiries Procedure) Rules 2007, a local Pre-Inquiries Meeting will be held into the Secretary of State's proposal for the Orders listed above by the person nominated to hold the Public Local Inquiries at a time, date and venue to be advised. All persons with an interest in the Public Local Inquiries are invited to attend.

The Secretary of State for Transport will publish a further notice which will be in accordance with Rule 10 of the Highways (Inquiries Procedure) Rules 1994 in the case of the Orders numbered 1 to 7 and Rule 10 of the Compulsory Purchase (Inquiries Procedure) Rules 2007 in the case of the Order numbered 8 above. That notice will include details of the Orders, which are the subject of the public inquiries, and explain the procedures to be followed for anyone who wishes to appear and to give evidence, or submit alternative proposals.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT direct that any person who intends at the Inquiries to submit –

(a) that any highway or proposed highway to which the draft Order at 1 above relates should follow an alternative route, or

(b) that instead of improving, diverting or altering a highway in accordance with the draft Side Roads at 3 above, a new highway should be constructed on a particular route,

shall send to them at the Highways Agency, Major Projects South, Room 2A, Federated House, London Road, Dorking Surrey, RH4 1SZ not later than 3 May 2010 sufficient information about the alternative route or the route of the new highway to enable it to be identified. Failure to comply with this direction will entitle the person holding the Inquiries and the Secretaries of State to disregard so much of any objection as consists of such a submission.

The contact for any further information relating to this notice is Graham Link Tel: 01306 878122. Email: graham.link@highways.gsi.gov.uk

PAUL ARNOLD
Highways Agency
Federated House,
London Road
Dorking
Surrey
RH4 1SZ

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

10/00751/HOUSE Beaufort Cottage Iden Green Road, Benenden
- Conversion of garage into habitable living space (CA)

10/00838/HOUSE Wheelwrights House The Street, Benenden
- Demolition of existing outbuilding and wall. Erection of extension of existing conservatory (CA)

10/00839/CAC Wheelwrights House The Street, Benenden
- Conservation Area Consent: Demolition of existing outbuilding and wall. (CA)

10/00873/HOUSE Mill Cottage Penshurst Road, Bidborough
- Two-storey side extension, porch alterations, internal and external refurbishment (LB)

10/00874/LBC Mill Cottage Penshurst Road, Bidborough
- Listed Building Consent - Two-storey side extension, porch alterations, internal and external refurbishment (LB)

10/00883/LBC Hazelden Farmhouse Marden Road, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst
- Listed Building Consent - Move oil boiler from existing location to new utility room; Move hot water tank from existing location to existing cupboard in order to reduce pipe runs (LB)

10/00885/LBC Hazelden Farmhouse Marden Road, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst
- Listed Building Consent - Introduction of shower to the master en-suite (LB)

10/00816/HOUSE Satis Mount Ephraim, Culverden
- Demolition of existing extension (one storey) and erection of two storey extension (CA)

10/00879/HOUSE Rock Farm Oast Grandshore Lane, Frittenden
- Single storey side extension (LB)

10/00601/FUL The Annexe Wellington House, Hawkhurst
- Retrospective: Change of use of annexe to holiday let plus erection of picket fence (LB)

10/00605/LBC The Annexe Wellington House, Hawkhurst
- Listed Building Consent: Change of use of annexe to use as a holiday let (LB)

10/00735/HOUSE Summerhill Cranbrook Road, Hawkhurst
- Demolition of garage and carport and construction of replacement detached double garage (CA)

10/00856/HOUSE Steam Cottage Water Lane, Hawkhurst
- Change of use of lower ground floor store to part of detached annex living accomodation (LB)

10/00860/LBC Steam Cottage Water Lane, Hawkhurst
- Listed Building Consent - Change of use of lower ground floor store to part of detached annex living accomodation (LB)

10/00636/HOUSE Mouseden Cottage Scotney Castle, Lamberhurst
- Extension of utility room to form entrance porch (LB)

10/00638/LBC Mouseden Cottage Scotney Castle, Lamberhurst
- Listed Building Consent - Extension of utility room to form entrance porch (LB)

10/00566/FUL Nevill House 15 Nevill Street, Pantiles & St Marks
- Variation of condition 4 of TW/08/03901 - sound insulation (CA)

10/00842/FUL 21 Vale Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks
- Change of use of first floor from A2 to D2 so it can be used as a personal training studio (CA)

10/00864/HOUSE The Old Bothy Pembury Road, Park
- Demolition of existing garage, greenhouse and garden house and erection of two storey and single storey extension to house and new detached garage and garden house (CA)

10/00865/CAC The Old Bothy Pembury Road, Park
- Conservation Area Consent - Demolition of existing garage, greenhouse and garden house (CA)

10/00793/FUL 29 Highfield Road Southborough, Southborough And High Brooms
- (And land rear of 24 North Farm Road) Construction of 3 terraced houses with 7 car parking spaces (PROW)

10/00862/FUL The Cricket Ground The Common, Southborough North
- Portable cricket practice net and new artificial cricket pitch (CA)

10/00787/HOUSE Sunset Cottage 3 Penshurst Road, Speldhurst
- Rear single-storey extension (CA)

10/00894/LBC Hollands Farmhouse Langton Road, Speldhurst
- Listed Building Consent - Replacement of existing floor construction with solid insulated floor construction (LB)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

Jim Kehoe
Head of Planning Services
Town Hall Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 27 March 2010

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

Home Cleaning Company requires
FULL TIME STAFF
Tonbridge Area
Mon-Fri 7.45am-4.15pm
No Bank Holidays,
Weekends or Evenings
Drivers only
01732 359500

To advertise in this section
01892 458204

PUBLIC NOTICE

APPLICATION FOR A NEW PREMISES LICENCE

I, Bindraman Rai hereby give notice that I have made an application to the Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent. ME15 6JQ for grant of a premises licence to permit the following licensable activities;

1. Sale of alcohol by retail

In respect of the premises situated at 46, Sandling Road, Maidstone, Kent ME14 2RH known by the sign of Evergreen Nepalese Shop

The application can be viewed at the offices of Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME16 8HR during normal office hours.

Any person wishing to make representation concerning this application should do so in writing to the above local authority and within 28 consecutive days of the submission of the application, that is no later than 23rd April 2010.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. Any person who makes a false statement is liable on summary conviction to a maximum fine of £5,000.

Stephen Thomas LAW
8 Grassmere, Leybourne, West Malling, Kent ME19 5QP
Authorised Agents for and on behalf of the applicants.

JobsforKent.co.uk
The smart way to find a job in the County

PUBLIC NOTICE

APPLICATION FOR VARATION OF A PREMISES LICENCE

I, Samson Sellers hereby give notice that we have made an application to the Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling Kent ME19 4LZ for variation of the following licensable activities;

1. The hours for sale of alcohol by retail
2. The provision of regulated entertainment

The application can be viewed at the offices of Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling Kent ME19 4LZ during normal office hours.

Any person wishing to make representation concerning this application should do so in writing to the above local authority and within 28 consecutive days of the submission of the application, that is no later than 16th April 2010.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. Any person who makes a false statement is liable on summary conviction to a maximum fine of £5,000

Stephen Thomas LAW
8 Grassmere, Leybourne, West Malling, Kent ME19 5QP
Authorised Agents for and on behalf of the applicants.

HIGHWAYS - District of Ashford

A20 MAIDSTONE ROAD, ASHFORD (40 MPH SPEED LIMIT) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of the installation of a new water main, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting traffic on the A20 Maidstone Road, Ashford on or after 12 April 2010 for an estimated period of 8 weeks or until the works are complete.

The effect of the Order is to impose a Temporary Mandatory Speed Limit of 40 mph from the National Speed Limit sign north west of the junction with Orchard Heights, for a distance of 230 metres on each carriageway.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Dartford

HEATH LANE AND WILLOW ROAD (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by pedestrian traffic on the footpath between Heath Lane and Willow Road.

The Order will become effective on 29th March 2010, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 6 months; the works are planned to last 2 weeks. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Willow Road, Blackmans Close and Heath Lane.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate installation of high voltage cables.

HIGHWAYS - District of Dover

VARIOUS ROADS, DOVER (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of gas mains replacement and potential repairs to a damaged railway bridge, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Various Roads, Dover on or after 29 March 2010 for an estimated period of 23 weeks or until the works are complete.

The roads and extent of the closures and alternative routes are as defined in the schedule to this Order, as shown below.

Road Name:	**St Radigunds Road**
Extent:	Between the junctions with Magdala Road and Primrose Place
Dates:	29 March 2010 for up to 3 weeks
Diversion:	Magdala Road, Coombe Valley Road, Primrose Road and Primrose Place
Road Name:	**Magdala Road**
Extent:	for its entire length
Dates:	12 April 2010 for up to 4 weeks
Diversion:	Northbound via Coombe Valley Road, London Road and St Radigund's Road Southbound via St Radigund's Road, Primrose Place, Primrose Road and Coombe Valley Road
Road Name:	**Coombe Valley Road**
Extent:	Between the junctions with London Road and Edgar Road
Dates:	10 May 2010 for up to 16 weeks
Diversion:	Coombe Valley Road, Barwick Road, St Radigund's Road, Bunkers Hill Road, Hillside Road, Crabble Avenue, Crabble Road, Crabble Hill, Buckland Avenue, Cherry Tree Avenue and London Road.

The Order will remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months and will allow the above-mentioned restrictions to be implemented as and when required for works of a similar nature, at any time for the duration of the order.

HIGHWAYS - District of Sevenoaks

VALLEY ROAD, FAWKHAM (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Valley Road, Fawkham near West Lodge.

The Order will become effective on 12th April 2010, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 2 nights between 21:00 – 06:00 Hours. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Manor Lane and Michaels Lane.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate BT Openreach works.

HONEYPOT LANE, KEMSING (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Honeypot Lane, Kemsing from Noahs Ark to enterance to Kemsing Station.

The Order will become effective on 12th April 2010, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 4 weeks. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Noahs Ark Seal, Fullers Street Seal, Watery Lane Seal, Watery Lane Kemsing and Honeypot Lane Kemsing.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate carriageway patching works

HIGHWAYS - District of Shepway

CULLINGS HILL, ELHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of BT cabling works, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Cullings Hill, Elham on or after 29 March 2010, for an estimated period of 3 days or until the works are complete.

The road will be closed from in the vicinity of Manor Cottage. There will be no access for through traffic. The alternative route will be via High Street and The Row.

HIGHWAYS - District of Thanet

VARIOUS ROADS, RAMSGATE (40 MPH SPEED LIMIT) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of works for the construction of the new East Kent Access Road, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting traffic on Various Roads, Ramsgate on or after 29 March 2010 for an estimated period of 18 months or until the works are complete.

The effect of the Order is to impose a temporary mandatory speed limit of 40 mph on the following sections of road, as and when the relevant signs are displayed on site.

a) **A299 Canterbury Road West**, between the termination of the 50 mph speed limit at Minster Roundabout and the existing 30 mph speed limit west of Cliffsend.

b) **A299 Canterbury Road West,** between the De-restriction Sign east of Cliffsend up to and including the 'Lord of the Manor' roundabouts junction with Canterbury Road East and Ramsgate Road.

c) **A299 Canterbury Road** East from the junction with the A256 Lord of the Manor roundabout to the existing 40 mph limit.

d) **Haine Road** for a distance of 100 metres north east of the Lord of the Manor roundabout

e) **A256 Sandwich Road, Ramsgate,** between the Lord of the Manor roundabouts and the 40 mph speed limit north of the junction of Cliffsend Road

The Order will remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months and will allow the above-mentioned restrictions to be implemented as and when required for works of a similar nature, at any time for the duration of the order.

A256 RAMSGATE ROAD, SANDWICH (30 MPH SPEED LIMIT) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of works for the construction of the new East Kent Access Road, the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting traffic on A256 Ramsgate Road, Sandwich, on or after 29 March 2010 for an estimated period of 18 months or until the works are complete.

The effect of the Order is to impose a temporary mandatory speed limit of 30 mph on the section of Ramsgate Road, Sandwich, between the termination of the 50 mph speed limit south of Richborough roundabout to the de-restriction sign north of Ebbsfleet Lane, as and when the relevant signs are displayed on site.

The Order will remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months and will allow the above-mentioned restrictions to be implemented as and when required for works of a similar nature, at any time for the duration of the order

HARBOUR STREET, BROADSTAIRS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of repairs to areas of carriageway subsidence, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Harbour Street, Broadstairs, on or after 29 March 2010 for an estimated period of 2 days or until the works are complete.

The road will be closed from Flint House. There is no alternative route for through traffic.

CHURCH ROAD, RAMSGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of BT cable replacement works, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Church Road, Ramsgate, on or after 12 April 2010, for an estimated period of 5 days or until the works are complete.

The road will be closed between between properties number 2 and 10. The alternative route for through traffic will be via A255 Boundary Road, Chatham Place, Chatham Street, High Street, Church Hill and Broad Street.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

ISMAYS ROAD, COMMON ROAD & BACK LANE, IGHTHAM (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on the routes described in the Schedule.

The alternative routes as described will be noted in the schedule. Access will be maintained up to the points of closure. The Order will become effective on Monday 29th March 2010, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months.

Schedule 1:

Road Name:	**Ismays Road, Ightham**
Extent:	From junction of Back Lane to outside Birchwood
Dates:	Start: 29th March 2010 End: 9th April 2010
Diversion:	Ismays Road, High Cross Road, A227 Tonbridge Road, Back Lane
Road Name:	**Common Road, Ightham**
Extent:	From junction of Ismays Road to outside Little Rosewood
Dates:	Start: 12th April 2010 End: 16th April 2010
Diversion:	Ismays Road, Sandy Lane, Common Road
Road Name:	**Ismays Road, Ightham**
Extent:	From junction of Back Lane to Tebbs Way
Dates:	Start: 19th April 2010 End: 23rd April 2010
Diversion:	Back Lane, A227 Tonbridge Road, Ismays Road
Road Name:	**Back Lane, Ightham**
Extent:	Ismays Road to Tebb's Corner
Dates:	Start: 26th April 2010 End: 30th April 2010
Diversion:	Ismays Road, High Cross Road, A227 Tonbridge Road, Back Lane

EDF Energy apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which

are necessary for electrical maintenance work. Should you require any further information regarding these works, their contact is Scott Davis on 01732 783986.

BROOK STREET AREA, TONBRIDGE AND MALLING (PROHIBITION AND RESTRICTION OF WAITING) ORDER 2010

Notice is hereby given that the Kent County Council acting as the local traffic authority and in exercise of its powers under Sections 1, 2 & 4 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended, and of all other enabling powers and after consultation with the Chief Officer of Police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the said Act, proposes to make the above Order.

The effect of the Order will be to introduce prohibition of waiting in Old Barn Close, Scott Road and Shakespeare Road as follows:

NO WAITING AT ANY TIME ON ALL DAYS (Double yellow lines - DYL)

Old Barn Close	Both sides - from a point 3 metres north of its junction with Brook Street for a distance of 10 metres in a northerly direction to start of granite sett rumble strip
Scott Road	East side - from a point 15.5 metres south of its junction with Brook Street in a southerly direction to a point 15 metres south of its junction with Shakespeare Road
Scott Road	West side - from its junction with Shakespeare Road for a distance of 12 metres in a northerly direction
Shakespeare Road	East side - from a point 19 metres south of its junction with Brook Street for a distance of 17 metres in a southerly then easterly direction into cul-de-sac

The effect of the Order will also be to introduce restriction of waiting in Burns Crescent and College Avenue as follows:

DAYTIME WAITING RESTRICTIONS (single yellow lines)

Street or length of street (specified in Columns 1 & 2) where waiting is prohibited on the days specified (in Column 3) between the times specified (in Column 4).

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
Name of Road	**Description of length of road**	**Days on which restriction applies**	**Times at which restriction applies**
Burns Crescent	South side - from a point 4 metres south-west of the north-east side of No.19 Burns Crescent for a distance of 10 metres in a north-easterly direction	Monday - Saturday	08:00-18:00 hrs
Burns Crescent	South side - from its junction with the public footpath crossing of Burns Crescent for a distance of 5 metres on both directions	Monday - Saturday	08:00-18:00 hrs
Burns Crescent	West side - from the south side of No.50 burns Crescent for a distance of 10 metres in a northerly direction	Monday - Saturday	08:00-18:00 hrs
College Avenue	West side - from a point opposite the north side of No.70 College Avenue to the north side of No.41 College Avenue in a southerly direction	Monday - Saturday	08:00-18:00 hrs
College Avenue	West side - from a point 3 metres south of the north side of No.29 College Avenue for a distance of 10 metres in a north-easterly direction	Monday - Saturday	08:00-18:00 hrs
College Avenue	West side - from a point 6 metres north of its junction with The Spinney for a distance of 10 metres in a northerly direction	Monday - Saturday	08:00-18:00 hrs
College Avenue	North side - from a point 24 metres south-west of its junction with West Rise to a point 22 metres north of its junction with West Rise	Monday - Saturday	08:00-18:00 hrs
College Avenue	North side - from a point 11.5 metres east of the west side of No.30 College Avenue for a distance of 10 metres in a easterly direction	Monday - Saturday	08:00-18:00 hrs

The Order will contain the usual exemptions to enable a vehicle to wait with police permission or for passengers to board or alight, for the loading and unloading of goods, for enabling work to be carried out in or adjacent to the road, for disabled persons and for emergency vehicles.

A copy of the Order together with a map, a copy of the Councils reasons for proposing to make the Order, may be inspected during normal office hours at the offices of Tonbridge and Malling Council Offices, Kings Hill, West Malling or Tonbridge Castle and the Kent County Council, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent.

Any person wishing to object to the Order should write to the Director of Planning Transportation and Leisure, Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4LZ quoting the name of the Order and stating their reasons, by not later than 12 noon on Monday 19th April 2010

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tunbridge Wells

STONE STREET AND CARRIERS ROAD, CRANBROOK (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Stone Street, Cranbrook on or after Thursday 15th April 2010 for an estimated period of up to 17 days and Carriers Road on or after Monday 10th May 2010 for an estimated period of up to 23 days or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the restriction described above is for Stone Street via Waterloo Road, Angley Road, High Street and Carriers Road via High Street, Wheatfield Drive, Wheatfield Way, Oatfield Drive and vice versa.

EDF Energy apologise for any inconvenience caused, which are necessary for a new supply installation. Should you require any further information regarding these works, their contact is David Creasey of Amber Langis Ltd on 01732 783985.

For further information, please contact Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

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Ford's maxed out C-Max is coming soon

By **STEVE LOADER**

IT WILL be interesting to see how Ford promotes a new seven-seat C-Max option due later this year.

For the UK market leader was robust in defence of producing the original C-Max only in five-seat form, despite the success of the established seven-seat Vauxhall Zafira.

Ford claimed, with a sniff, that its own research showed there was no call for seven-seaters in that sector.

Well, the Zafira still puts more bums on seats that anything else in that arena and Ford's humiliating climbdown continues; first there was the bigger S-Max and now we await an all-new C-Max with the seven-up option (main picture).

So, from claiming there was no market at all, Ford now has two medium sector seven-seaters, though they are chalk and cheese.

The S-Max is a rarity – a classy looking and sporty MPV – while the new Grand C-Max is no looker, especially against the Zafira and MPV style leaders like the Renault Grand Scenic and Mazda5.

However, it does share two plus points with the Mazda: sliding rear doors for easier access to both rear seat rows and a fold-away middle seat in row two, allowing 'walk thru' access to the rearmost chairs.

At least we get a smart replacement for the current C-Max five-door though, which is even better looking than the current car and promises to be just as popular with drivers who have to have a people carrier yet still crave driving pleasure and some style.

The new version has an almost coupé-like roofline falling away to the rear, yet retains the required roominess.

Nevertheless, both the C-Max sisters will have family-friendly features on offer such as semi-automatic parallel parking, blind-spot detection, seat belt warning lights for rear seat passengers, power-activated child locks, and a powered tailgate.

They will also be the first Ford models to deploy a new high-efficiency, low-CO2 EcoBoost turbocharged petrol engines, following a trend set by the VW and Fiat stables; petrol remains easier to produce and the engines are cheaper and lighter than diesels.

With the new C-Max duo and the S-Max now catering for buyers needing just a bit more space, Ford obviously feels this will hit demand for the Focus estate; the Mark 1 Focus load-lugger was a capacious work-horse, but its successor majored more on style and, we now know, will be replaced at the end of the year by what appears to be simply an extended hatchback (pictured) targeting about 10 per cent of total Focus demand.

Stylish cars equipped for the modern world.
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The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) and CO_2 emissions (g/km) for the 107 range are: Urban 51.3 (5.5), Extra Urban 72.4-68.8 (3.9-4.1), Combined 62.7-61.4 (4.5-4.6), CO_2 107-106 (g/km) **for the 207 range are:** Urban 49.5-28.5 (5.7-9.9), Extra Urban 76.3-49.5 (3.7-5.7), Combined 64.2-39.2 (4.4-7.2), CO_2 171 - 99 (g/km) **for the 308 range are:** Urban 49.5-24.78 (5.7-11.4), Extra Urban 74.34-47.08 (3.8-6.0), Combined 62.7-35.76 (4.5-7.9), CO_2 188-120 (g/km).

*Over 18s only. A guarantee may be required. Written quotations available on request from Peugeot Financial Services, Quadrant House, Princess Way, Redhill, RH 1 1QA. Passport Personal Lease offers: 207 Verve 1.4 8v 3dr Initial rental £1674.05, 46 monthly rentals, Optional final rental £3705, Agreed mileage 6,000. 308 Verve 1.4 VTi 95 5dr Initial rental £1988.18, 46 monthly rentals, Optional final rental £4548, Agreed mileage 6,000. 107 Urban 1.0 3dr Initial rental £1000.70, 46 monthly rentals, Optional final rental £2,644, Agreed mileage 6,000. If you choose to pay off the optional final rental at the end of the contract, you can keep the vehicle but you will not own it – you will pay an annual rental equivalent to one of your monthly rentals. If you exceed your agreed annual mileage you may incur excess mileage charges. (PEUG33054)

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FIRST GEAR

Compiled by Steve Loader

More wallet-friendly Murano ready to roll

TWO of the best 4x4/SUVs in the business were two of the worst, because their makers chose not to offer them in diesel format.

But both the Mazda CX-7 and Nissan Murano are now available with new wallet-friendly engines and may just grab some of the sales they deserved.

The Nissan is the latest convert; the sharply-styled second generation Murano launched in 2008, now features a 190PS (188bhp) 2.5-litre turbodiesel with six-speed auto transmission – deliveries begin in September. It's a familiar engine noted for its refinement and sportiness and the car also comes with Nissan's new 'self-healing' paint, which can automatically re-seal small scrapes and scratches.

Nissan claims the Murano's upmarket specification makes it a serious rival to luxury saloons.

No price is yet quoted, but expect a £30,000+ tag.

Vauxhall slashes entry prices

VAUXHALL has thrown down the gauntlet to mainstream rivals by slashing entry prices on most of its range through new lower-priced Expression/ES models, even as it seeks a move upmarket.

Private buyers can save as much as £3,675, while company car users also incur reduced company car tax.

The new Corsa Expression supermini (pictured right) costs £9,995 – more than £1,000 less than the previous entry car – while the £13,995 Astra Expression hatchback saves £2,000, and the big £17,100 Insignia ES saves £1,700 on getting into Vauxhall's flagship.

However, the biggest bargain is the £14,995 Zafira Expression version of Britain's best-selling seven-seat compact MPV, which also loses no kit compared with the previous Life entry model to the range, apart from roof rails and air con.

Downsizing Aygo offers added luxury

WE'VE spoken before about how the downsizing phenomenon is prompting manufacturers to add more luxury options to their smallest models.

And Toyota has responded with an up-spec Aygo Black version (pictured left) of its three and five-door city car.

It features Alcantara and leather trim, sports steering wheel, 14-inch alloys and black metallic paint and costs from £9,460 – air con is a £500 option though.

Power comes from a proven 1.0-litre petrol engine with a five-speed manual gearbox offering an average of 60+mpg and CO2 emissions of just 106g/km – an auto 'box is available on the five-door version.

All models are Delivery Mileage and benefit from Balance of Manufacturers Warranty

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NEW 10 REG

Jeep Grand Cherokee

SAVE up to £6305!

	WAS	SAVE	NOW
Jeep Grand Cherokee 3.0 CRD Overland Tech	£33,870	£2,005	£31,865
Jeep Grand Cherokee 3.0 CRD Overland Family Pack	£38,170	£6,305	£31,865

NEW 10 REG

Chrysler Grand Voyager

SAVE £2096!

	WAS	SAVE	NOW
Chrysler Grand Voyager 2.8 LTD	£34,770	£2,096	£32,674
Chrysler Grand Voyager 2.8 LTD Rear DVD Entertainment	£35,770	£2,096	£33,674

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20th anniversary show highlights the enduring appeal of kit cars

by STEVELOADER

MOTORING dreams can become reality more cheaply through kit cars and one of their longest running UK showcases is celebrating its 20th year.

It is the European Kit and Car Builder Show, returning to the Kent County Showground at Detling near Maidstone this Easter (April 4-5).

The UK has one of the most dynamic kit car industries in the world and Kent is home to some of the best known names including Blaze Motorsport, GKD Sportscars and Speedwell Replicas all from the Maidstone area, while Hawk cars – producer of replica versions of the legendary AC Cobra and Lancia Stratos is at Frant, near Tunbridge Wells.

The industry can trace roots back to 1896, when Thomas Hyler White developed a car design for home assembly.

The British kit car industry now has more than 200 manufacturers – more than the rest of the world combined – and generates in excess of £2 million per year.

Show organiser John Cooke promised: "The two-day Detling car extravaganza will showcase the very best of the kit car world, including many established favourites and some superb newcomers.

"The event really is the perfect way to enjoy half-term with the kids, at the same time enjoying the stunning beauty of these top-class machines."

AFFORDABLE DREAM: The Quantum Xtreme will be among the hundreds of kit cars on show at Detling

Parking is free and the show will feature at least 35 manufacturers, 50 trade stands, 30 kit car clubs and 400 privately-owned kit cars, plus entertainments centred on the showground's main glass-walled exhibition hall.

The show also includes displays by Scottish motorcycle stunt star Kevin Carmichael, who has performed all around the world and invented many stunts performed by others on the circuit. The kit car show's official charity is Follow Your Dreams, raising awareness of children and young adults with learning disabilities.

• Tickets: adults £10, children 12 years and under £2, kit car drivers and their cars are free.

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New Astra 1.4 Exclusive	**£179**	**per month + VAT** (6 rentals in advance plus 47 rentals)
Zafira 1.6 Energy	**£219**	**per month + VAT** (6 rentals in advance plus 47 rentals)
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WE 10VE SAVINGS

Vauxhall Corsa 1.0 Energy 3dr

Cash Price	Deposit	Amount of Credit	Charge for Credit
£8,375	£179	£8,196	£2,544.60

60 Monthly Payments	doc & option fee	Total Amount Payable
£179.01	£298	£11,217.60

Typical 13.2% APR

Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 SRi

Cash Price	Deposit	Amount of Credit	Charge for Credit
£10,795	£219	£10,576	£2,564.60

60 Monthly Payments	doc & option fee	Total Amount Payable
£219.01	£298	£13,657.60

10.3% APR

Vauxhall Corsa 1.2 SXi 3dr

Cash Price	Deposit	Amount of Credit	Charge for Credit	60 Monthly Payments	doc & option fee	Total Amount Payable	
£9,295	£199	£9,096	£2,847	£199.05	£298	£12,440	13.1% APR

New Vauxhall Astra 1.4 Exclusive 5dr

Cash Price	Deposit	Amount of Credit	Charge for Credit	60 Monthly Payments	doc & option fee	Total Amount Payable	
£11,795	£239	£11,556	£2,785.20	£239.02	£298	£14,878.20	10.2% APR

Vauxhall Astra 1.4 Sport 3dr

Cash Price	Deposit	Amount of Credit	Charge for Credit	60 Monthly Payments	doc & option fee	Total Amount Payable	
£11,795	£239	£11,556	£2,785.20	£239.02	£298	£14,878.20	10.2% APR

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VAUXHALL

Official Government Test Environmental Data - Fuel Consumption Figures mpg (litres/100km): Vauxhall Range: urban 12.7 (22.3) - 51.4 (5.5), extra-urban 25.4 (11.1) - 74.3 (3.8), combined 18.6 (15.2) - 62.8 (4.5), CO2 Emissions 119 - 364 g/km.

Finance subject to status. Terms & conditions apply. Vehicles shown for illustration purposes only. The Vauxhall Swappage Scheme applies to customers trading in a qualifying car or commercial vehicle (up to 3.5 tonnes) against the purchase of selected new Vauxhall models when ordered or registered between 05.02.10 and 31.03.10. At the date of the new vehicle order, the vehicle traded in must be 7 years old or older from date of first registration in the UK. To qualify for the scheme, the owner of the trade vehicle (or their spouse/partner living at the same UK address) must be named as the registered keeper and resident at the UK address shown on the Vehicle Registration Document (V5C) and have owned the vehicle for a minimum of 90 days. The new vehicle must be registered at the same address. The vehicle must have a valid MOT and road tax (or that has expired no earlier than 14 days prior to the new vehicle order date) and be insured at the date of the new vehicle order. The Vauxhall Swappage Scheme cannot be used in conjunction with the Government Scrappage Scheme, or with any other offer. All Swappage discounts are inclusive of VAT. Offers available to private customers, Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only), on selected Retailer stocks at participating Retailers only.

DrivingReview

by STEVELOADER

CHIEF DRIVING CORRESPONDENT
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

Chevrolet Spark

Chevrolet seeks to Spark UK revolution

CHEVROLET made itself a hostage to fortune by naming its new city car the Spark.

If the General Motors (GM) brand got it right then it could 'spark' real change in the way we Brits perceive this epitome of US car design – particularly in the small car sector where it has no serious track record.

Get it wrong though and you could see headlines being rehearsed: Spark fails to ignite Chevy, Spark snuffs out Chevy ambition ,and so on.

After a week with Chevy's new baby though, it still shone brightly and not just because it is a lot of little car for the money (£6,945-9,845).

It had to be good to replace the much-loved Matiz. Launched as a Daewoo 12 years ago, the veteran five-door city car was looking tired; styled originally by the Italian master Giugiaro, it was ruined by an in-house facelift after GM applied Chevrolet branding to the former Korean marque.

But it bowed out in style with some stunning deals over the past year, with or without the Government sponsored £2,000-a-time Scrappage grants.

Fortunately, the crisply-drawn high-roof five-door Spark with its fashionably concealed rear door handles, should help the memories fade though don't get carried away by the entry price; the poverty spec entry model requires you to pay extra for a sound system, so it's a fairly obvious showroom lure for dearer and better equipped versions.

The first 'proper' car in the line-up then is the 1.0+ model at £8,145 – quite a hike and, unfortunately, it highlights a regular marketing ploy by Chevrolet intended to underpin its reputation for value for money, but sometimes more likely to undermine it.

As the Spark's profile implies, it is a spacious small car and Chevy has enhanced its appeal as a mini-MPV by installing a trio of three-point seat belts across the back, although it would be tight for three adults.

The Spark is currently available with 68PS (67bhp) 1.0-litre or 82PS (81bhp) 1.2-litre petrol engines; I haven't been able to drive the former, but the latter endows the little car with decent acceleration and the ability to cope with motorway hauls.

It is not the quietest small hatchback, but it rides well and Chevrolet has ensured that the high body does not loll into the bends – no mean feat.

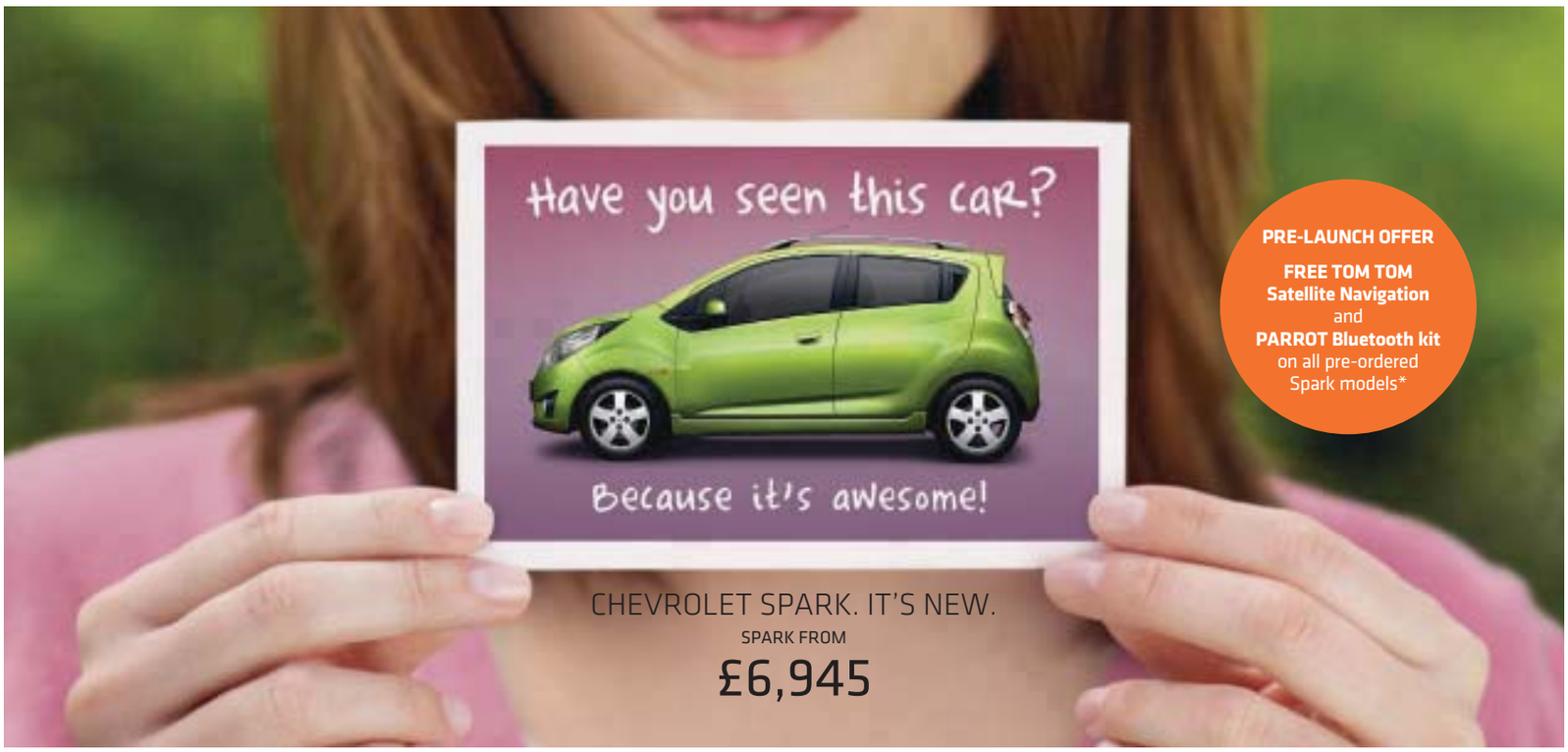
Mid-range LS trim (from £8,445) is expected to be the most popular and brings remote central locking, interior upgrades, front fog lamps and a body-coloured rear spoiler.

And that seems about right after driving the 'blinged up' LT flagship with a package including electric windows all round, heated electric mirrors, roof bars, steering wheel audio controls, 15-inch alloys, climate control, exterior body kit and six-speaker stereo. That takes the Spark to a less appealing £9,845 and a fairly ridiculous stance with those rails perched on a lofty roof.

And while the Spark cabin is quite eye-catching, with a retro display of gauges on top of the steering column, interior materials are a bit cheesy and actually look worse on the LT where some trays and bins are lined with a chrome finish likely to scratch badly with wear and tear.

The same problem afflicted shiny surfaces on the bigger Kalos supermini that was the basis for the current Aveo, so Chevrolet should have learnt the lesson by now.

I also found the driver's seat uncomfortable; there is a shaped bolster at the back of the seats that I presume is designed to prevent you sliding around too much, but it just made my backside numb – maybe it was a problem with the test car.



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CHEVROLET

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Price of £6,945 relates to Spark 1.0. Vehicle shown is Spark 1.2 LT. Vehicle shown features metallic paint available at extra cost of £365. Available at participating retailers only. Not available in conjunction with any other offers. Available on UK supplied vehicles. Prices correct at time of press.
Official Government Environmental Data. Fuel Consumption Figures MPG (Litres/100 km). Chevrolet Spark range emissions: Urban 42.8 (6.6), Extra Urban 67.3 (4.2), Combined 55.4 (5.1), CO_2 Emissions 119 g/km.

DrivingPortfolio

CHEVROLET 1.2 LT 5-DR £9,845

Driving appeal	★★★★
Image	★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★
How green?	★★★★
Road tax	£35/year
Best rival	Hyundai i10

TheVerdict

DON'T LIKE: 'sparkly' chrome effect cabin trimmings that look cheap and will scratch and wear quickly

NOT SURE: the seat profile is right, but maybe it was the shape of my backside

REALLY LIKE: the overall practicality and value – just don't go for the highest specs

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Model shown Superb Estate Elegance 2.0 TDI CR 140bhp 6spd DPF at £24,280 RRP inc optional metallic paint at £410 RRP. Tinted windows not to UK specification. *Specification shown is standard on Elegance and optional on SE models only. **Official fuel consumption for the Superb range in mpg (litres/100km): Urban 19.2 (14.7) – 44.8 (6.3); Extra urban 36.2 (7.8) – 70.6 (4.0); Combined 27.7 (10.2) – 57.6 (4.9). CO_2 emissions for the Superb range 129 – 237 g/km.** Offer available on all Fabia and Octavia models ordered before 31st March 2010 at participating retailers only. Reduction applied to the RRP including factory fitted optional extras and is equivalent of the VAT applicable at the time. VAT is applicable and will be shown on the customer's invoice. †Savings shown relate to RRP's of the Fabia Scout 1.9 TDI PD 105bhp and the Octavia L&K estate 2.0 TDI PD 140bhp DSG. Excludes the channel islands. Prices are accurate at time of print. Offer is not available in conjunction with the Government's scrappage scheme. **Official fuel consumption in mpg for the Škoda range: Urban 19.2 (14.7) – 53.3 (5.3), Extra Urban 36.2 (7.8) – 83.1 (3.4), Combined 27.7 (10.2) – 68.9 (4.1). CO_2 emissions (g/km) Škoda Range: 109 – 237**

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*The Trade and Upgrade Programme enables eligible customers to obtain £3,000 as a minimum part exchange value for a qualifying vehicle when purchasing a new Hyundai i30. The programme is available to eligible customers who trade in a qualifying vehicle against the purchase of a new Hyundai i30 between 8th March 2010 and 31 March 2010. Further terms and conditions apply. The programme may be varied or withdrawn at any time. The Trade and Upgrade Programme cannot be used in conjunction with the Hyundai Affinity Programme, Motability and Special Fleet Terms or, unless otherwise stated, any other offers (including, without limitation, the friends and family £250 voucher scheme). A £59 inc. VAT admin fee will be added to all purchases, this includes £20 worth of fuel. Telephone calls may be recorded for training purposes only. E&OE.

Fuel consumption and CO2 for Hyundai Range – Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for the Hyundai range: Urban 25.9 (10.9) - 54.3 (5.2), Extra Urban 39.8 (7.1) - 74.3 (3.8), Combined 33.2 (8.5) - 64.2 (4.4), CO2 Emissions 225 - 115 g/km.

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Typical finance example

Cash price	£7655.00
Deposit	£1879.70
Amount financed	£5775.00
1st monthly payment	£125.00
35 monthly payments	£95.00
Final payment	£3015.00
Interest charges	£689.70
Total amount payable	£8344.70

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70 - 88 Park View Road, Welling, Kent. Tel: 020 8303 1234
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Alto range official fuel consumption figures in mpg (L/100km): urban from 42.1 (6.7) to 51.4 (5.5), extra urban from 62.8 (4.5) to 74.3 (3.8), combined from 54.3 (5.2) to 64.2 (4.4). Official CO_2 emissions from 103g/km to 122g/km.

†Finance subject to status, over 18's only, a guarantee may be required, written quotations available on request. Offer and vehicle offered is subject to availability on cars purchased and registered before the 31st March 2010. A £59 inc. VAT admin fee will be added to all vehicle purchases, this includes £20 worth of fuel. Please note, models portrayed are for illustration purposes only and may not represent actual model. WJ King reserves the right to withdraw any offer at any time. Telephone calls may be recorded for training purposes only. E&OE.

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FROM **£12995** With 4 years 0% APR typical†(1)#

(1) Typical finance example for 4 years 0% APR Typical.

CASH PRICE	DEPOSIT	AMOUNT FINANCED	FIRST PAYMENT	46 MONTHLY PAYMENTS
£12995	£5198	£7797	£162.44	£162.44
1 FINAL PAYMENT	INTEREST CHARGES	TOTAL CHARGE FOR CREDIT	TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE	0% TYPICAL APR
£162.44	NIL	NIL	£12995	

GB NU10 REG Vauxhall Corsa Energy 1.0i 3dr

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VAUXHALL

Official Government Test Environmental Data - Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km): Vauxhall Range: Urban12.7 (22.3) - 51.4 (5.5), extra-urban 25.4 (11.1) - 74.3 (8.3), combined 18.6 (15.2) - 62.8 (4.5). CO_2 Emissions 364 - 119 g/km.

(1) 4 years 0% APR is based on a minimum deposit of 40%, maximum finance amount £8500, available on selected Astra models as advertised. †Subject to availability, other models available at extra cost. Finance supplied by Barclays Partner Finance, PO Box 3979, Glasgow G51 1YL, subject to status, over 18's only, a guarantee may be required, written quotations available on request. Models are available to private individuals, Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only). All other sales categories are excluded. Offers apply to selected new vehicles ordered and registered between 06.03.10 and 31.03.10, and are subject to status, eligibility, terms and conditions. # The Vauxhall Swappage Scheme applies to customers trading in a qualifying car or commercial vehicle (up to 3.5 tonnes) against the purchase of selected new Vauxhall models when ordered or registered between 05.02.10 and 31.03.10. At the date of the new vehicle order, the vehicle traded in must be 7 years old or older from date of first registration in the UK. To qualify for the scheme, the owner of the trade vehicle (or their spouse/partner living at the same UK address) must be named as the registered keeper and resident at the UK address shown on the Vehicle Registration Document (V5C) and have owned the vehicle for a minimum of 90 days. The new vehicle must be registered at the same address. The vehicle must have a valid MOT and road tax (or that has expired no earlier than 14 days prior to the new vehicle order date) and be insured at the date of the new vehicle order. The Vauxhall Swappage Scheme cannot be used in conjunction with the Government Scrappage Scheme, or with any other offer. All Swappage discounts are inclusive of VAT. Offers available to private customers, Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only), on selected Retailer stocks at participating Retailers only. Models portrayed are for illustration purposes only. A £59 inc. VAT admin fee will be added to all vehicle purchases, this includes £20 worth of fuel. Telephone calls may be recorded for training purposes. E&OE.

ALFA ROMEO

147, 1.9 JTD LUSSO, 2004, abs brakes alloy wheels cd player cruise control diesel electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering tonneau cover traction control trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, black, 58113 miles, £5000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

147, T SPARK LUSSO, 2005, abs brakes alloy wheels climate control cruise control electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering single cd player trip computer remote central locking rear seat entertainment, silver, 33578 miles, £5000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

159, 1.9 JTDM 16V LUSSO SPORTWAGON, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint power steering single cd player tonneau cover trip computer twin airbags front passenger air bag deactivation switch remote central locking remote audio controls, black, 41192 miles, £13000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

BRERA, JTDM (210), 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power steering, red, 21363 miles, £17000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

AUDI

A2, FSI Sport, 2003, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser power steering traction control trip computer remote central locking remote audio controls, black, 39000 miles, £5800, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

A2, FSI Sport, 2003, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser power steering traction control trip computer remote central locking remote audio controls, black, 39000 miles, £5800, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

A5, COUPE SPORT, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission bluetooth car kit cd player central locking climate control cruise control diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights full service history heated seats immobiliser mp3 player power fold mirrors leather interior multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid satellite navigation single cd player sports seats tinted glass traction control twin airbags xenon headlamps curtain airbags front parking sensors remote central locking auto headlights and wipers, white, 25000 miles, £27000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

A6, 2.0 TDi SE, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player front fog lights metallic paint multiple airbags power steering tinted glass remote central locking, blue, 29399 miles, £14080, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

CADILLAC

CTS, Sport Luxury, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player central locking climate control cruise control dvd electric windows front fog lights full service history heated seats immobiliser metallic paint power fold mirrors leather interior multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid satellite navigation single cd player sound pack split folding rear seats sports seats traction control trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points auto headlights and wipers remote audio controls, black, 7500 miles, £16000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

CHRYSLER

CROSSFIRE, V6, 7578079, air conditioning, full leather, electric seats, heated seats, remote central locking, remote alarm, electric windows, electric mirrors, power steering, height adjustable seat, twin air bags, side air bags, abs, auto-dip rearview, cruise control, adjustable steering column, cd player, radio, front fog lamps, rear spoiler, alloy wheels, blue, 60100 miles, £7495, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

GRAND VOYAGER, 2002, silver metallic with grey leather, 34000 miles, £5950, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

PT CRUISER, 2002, black with grey velour, 100700 miles, £2950, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

PT CRUISER, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cruise control electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint power steering remote central locking, silver, 36236 miles, £5500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

VOYAGER, CRD LX, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering, black, 41781 miles, £11000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

CITROEN

BERLINGO, Multispace Desire 16v, wk07 hpy, air conditioning, electric front windows, power steering, remote central locking, remote alarm, abs, front fog lamps, rear wash/wipe, roof rails, rear headrests, cloth upholstery, centre armrest, adjustable steering column, auto lighting, rain-sensing wipers, twin air bags, blue, 27100 miles, £6495, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, 1.6 DESIRE, 2007, abs brakes cd player electric windows front fog lights full service history immobiliser metallic paint tonneau cover twin airbags remote central locking isofix child seat points, blue, 17398 miles, £7000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

C-CROSSER, VTR 7 seat, 2010, 4x4 abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking cruise control diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights full service history immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering satellite navigation single cd player split folding rear seats traction control trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points, grey, 5000 miles, £21000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

C1, 1.0i VTR, 2009, abs brakes alloy wheels cd player electric windows immobiliser power steering tonneau cover trip computer remote central locking, red, 6011 miles, £8000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

C2, 1.1 i VTR, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning cd player electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, silver, 13 miles, £8000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

C4, 5, fp07lnj, 2 registered keepers remote central locking front electric windows power steering, silver, 6000 miles, £7795, Ashford, 01233 640100 (TRADE)

FERRARI

575M MARANELLO, 2004, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission central locking climate control electric windows front fog lights full service history immobiliser metallic paint leather interior multiple airbags power steering sports seats traction control, black, 14500 miles, £59900, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

FORD

FIESTA, 1.6 TDCI LX, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking diesel electric windows front fog lights full service history immobiliser metallic paint power steering tow bar trip computer remote central locking quickclear windscreen, silver, 53501 miles, £7500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.4 TDCi, 2006, alarm fitted cd player diesel drivers airbag electric windows full service history immobiliser power steering twin airbags remote central locking, white, 28387 miles, £7000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 2.0 ST, 2005, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint power steering single cd player tonneau cover trip computer twin airbags remote central locking, black, 31581 miles, £6000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

FOCUS, Zetec Climate, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking diesel electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering single cd player split folding rear seats trip computer remote central locking quickclear windscreen, silver, 55000 miles, £7000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

KUGA, 2.0 Titanium TDCi AWD, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player cruise control diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering traction control trip computer remote central locking quickclear windscreen remote audio controls, panther black, 8727 miles, £20000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

MONDEO, 2.0 Titanium TDCi, 2009, abs brakes air con alarm fitted alloy wheels bluetooth car kit cd player cruise control diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights full service history immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering traction control trip computer remote central locking quickclear windscreen remote audio controls, avalon grey, 11990 miles, £15000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

HONDA

ACCORD, 2.2EXEC SATNAV/HFT, 2008, abs brakes alarm fitted alloys cd player central locking climate control cruise control diesel electric windows front fog lights full service history immob metallic paint power fold mirrors leather interior multiple airbags remote central locking, nighthawk black, 16000 miles, £15700, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

ACCORD, 2.2 DTEC EX, 2009, abs brakes alarm fitted alloys auto transmission climate control cruise control diesel electric windows front fog lights heated seats metallic paint power fold mirrors leather interior multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid satellite navigation sun roof traction control remote central locking isofix child seat points auto headlights and wipers, polished metal, 4000 miles, £22995, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

CIVIC, SE 1.8, 2006, abs brakes alloy wheels cd player climate control electric windows metallic paint power fold mirrors multiple airbags remote central locking, grey, 27500 miles, £9495, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

CIVIC, TYPE-R 2.0, 2009, abs brakes alarm fitted alloys cd player central locking climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights full service history metallic paint power fold mirrors multiple airbags power steering sports seats trip computer twin airbags, nighthawk black, 6910 miles, £16000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

CR-V, 2.0ESAUTO, 2007, 4x4 abs brakes alarm fitted alloys wheels automatic transmission cd player central locking cruise control diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights full service history immobiliser metallic paint power fold mirrors, blueish silver, 8500 miles, £17000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

JAZZ, 1.4 SE, 2005, abs brakes air con alloy wheels electric windows full service history metallic paint multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid single cd player remote central locking, vivid blue, 11225 miles, £7995, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

MAZDA

MX-5, 2.0 SPORT, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player electric windows heated seats immobiliser metallic paint multi cd player leather interior power steering sports seats tinted glass traction control trip computer twin airbags remote central locking remote audio controls, stormy blue, 21096 miles, £10500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

MX-5, 1.8 SE AC, 2009, abs brakes air con alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking electric windows full service history immob metallic paint multiple airbags power steering single cd player sports seats tinted glass traction control remote central locking remote audio controls, metropolitan grey, 6057 miles, £13000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

RX-8, 192 LEATHER, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking climate control electric windows full service history heated seats metallic paint leather interior multiple airbags power steering sports seats traction control curtain airbags remote central locking remote audio controls, winning blue, 9700 miles, £10500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

MERCEDES-BENZ

CLS CLASS, CLS 500 auto with SAT NAV, remote alarm, remote central locking, full leather, centre armrest, electric seats, heated seats, rear headrests, multi-function steering z, parking sensor, power steering, traction control, abs, multiple airbags, auto lighting, colour coded body, front fog lamps, headlamp jetwash, metallic paintwork, electric mirrors, electric windows, powered folding mirrors, self-levelling suspension, air conditioning, climate control, multi-disc cd player, steering wheel audio controls, radio, 18'' alloys, front and rear parking sensors, sat nav, electric memory seats, telephone pre wiring, always over 60 mercedes-benz cars in stock! we will not be beaten on price! fully fsA regulated, aluminium silver, 62000 miles, £19995, Welling, 0208 8548037 (TRADE)

E220 CDI, Avantgarde, 2009, indium grey metallic, 6529 miles, £24490, Maidstone, 0844 558 7050 (TRADE)

M CLASS, Ml350 auto with full leather, sm04bel, alarm, privacy glass, remote alarm, remote central locking, full leather, centre armrest, electric seats, heated seats, folding rear seats, rear headrests, cruise control, parking sensor, power steering, traction control, abs, multiple airbags, auto lighting, colour coded body, front fog lamps, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, roof rails, electric mirrors, electric windows, powered folding mirrors, air conditioning, dual climate zones, cd player, radio, 17'' alloys, 4x4, front and rear parking sensors, heated seats, electric memory seats, always over 60 mercedes-benz cars in stock! we will not be beaten on price! fully fsA regulated, aluminium silver, 63000 miles, £10995, Welling, 0208 8548037 (TRADE)

R300 CDI BLUEEFFICIENCY, 2009, iridium silver metallic, 3525 miles, £29998, Canterbury, 0844 558 7049 (TRADE)

R320 CDI, SWB Sport, 2006, iridium silver metallic, 35452 miles, £22498, Canterbury, 0844 558 7049 (TRADE)

SL-SERIES, SL 350 Tip, 2004, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player central locking climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows heated seats immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power fold mirrors power steering reverse parking aid satellite navigation, silver, 41772 miles, £23500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

SLK200 KOMPRESSOR, 2009, iridium silver metallic, 2896 miles, £25400, Tonbridge, 0844 558 7055 (TRADE)

SLK200 KOMPRESSOR, 1980, palladium silver metallic, 8000 miles, £31994, Tonbridge, 0844 558 7055 (TRADE)

NISSAN

QASHQAI, 2.0 dCi, 2008, blue, 55 miles, £23000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

QASHQAI, Acenta, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking climate control cruise control diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights full service history immobiliser metallic paint multi cd player power fold mirrors multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid split folding rear seats trip computer twin airbags remote central locking isofix child seat points, metallic silver, 15000 miles, £13400, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

QASHQAI, DCi Tekna, 2008, 4x4 abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player cruise control diesel electric windows front fog lights heated seats immobiliser metallic paint power fold mirrors leather interior multiple airbags power steering traction control trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, metallic, 29394 miles, £15000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

QASHQAI, 2.0 ACENTA CVT, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multi cd player multiple airbags power steering tonneau cover trip computer remote central locking, caffe latte, 10600 miles, £16500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

TERRANO II, au06pxj. remote central locking, cloth upholstery, head restraints, centre armrest, metallic paintwork, front fog lamps, rear spoiler, rear wash/wipe, roof rails, colour coded body, multiple airbags, abs, adjustable steering column, multi-function steering wheel, power steering, electric mirrors, electric windows, air conditioning, cd player, immobiliser, air bag, steering wheel audio controls, 16'' alloys, 4x4, aluminium silver, 40000 miles, £7745, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

X-TRAIL, Columbia Auto, 7676079, air conditioning, power steering, electric windows, electric mirrors, cd player, radio cassette, remote central locking, remote alarm, abs, twin air bags, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, front fog lamps, electric sunroof, cloth upholstery, height adjustable seat, adjustable steering column, powered folding mirrors, alloy wheels, 4x4, silver, 20000 miles, £9995, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

X-TRAIL, 2.5 5dr, 2006, abs brakes alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player cruise control electric windows front fog lights multiple airbags power steering sun roof trip computer isofix child seat points remote audio controls, silver, 16039 miles, £9950, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

PEUGEOT

1007, 1.6 SPORT, 2007, alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser power steering single cd player tonneau cover trip computer twin airbags remote central locking, red, 9700 miles, £6000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

107, 1.0 sport 3dr, 2008, abs brakes alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag power steering trip computer, black, 6000 miles, £6600, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

206, 1.4 GLX, 2000, electric windows immobiliser metallic paint power steering twin airbags, silver, 65277 miles, £3000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

206, se, 2004, air conditioning drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser power steering remote central locking, red, 47000 miles, £4500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

207, S, 2007, abs brakes electric windows multiple airbags power steering single cd player trip computer remote central locking, blue, 8807 miles, £8000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

207, 1.4 16v SPORT, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint power steering single cd player tonneau cover trip computer twin airbags remote central locking, blue, 28480 miles, £7000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

RENAULT

CLIO, 3, gf04wuh, insurance group 8 abs alloy wheels audio remote control body coloured bumpers drivers airbag electricdoor mirrors folding rear seats front electric windows front fog lights heated door mirrors height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser passenger airbag power steering radio/cd remote central locking side airbags sports seats steering wheel rake adjustment sunroof trip computer 2 owners service history, sunburst red, 49000 miles, £4000, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

CLIO, 16v, 2008, abs brakes cd player central locking drivers airbag, black, 44 miles, £16990, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

CLIO, CAMPUS, 2007, central locking drivers airbag immobiliser power steering tinted glass, blue, 11487 miles, £5080, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

KANGOO, 1.2 EXPRESSION, 2007, abs brakes cd player electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint power steering twin airbags remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, blue, 9015 miles, £6500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

LAGUNA, 1.8 16v EXTREME, 2004, abs brakes air conditioning cd player electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering tonneau cover trip computer remote central locking, odyssey blue, 66700 miles, £4000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

LAGUNA, dCi 180 GT, 2009, abs brakes air con alarm fitted alloys cd player central locking climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power fold mirrors power steering reverse parking aid, grey, 12755 miles, £18000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

MEGANE, 16V Extreme, 2009, abs brakes alarm fitted alloys cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser power steering, grey, 4000 miles, £14000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

MEGANE, 1.6 VVT DYNAMIQUE, 2005, abs brakes alloys cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint power steering single cd player trip computer twin airbags remote central locking, grey over 4000 cars in group stock, 27725 miles, £7000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

MEGANE, VVT Expression, 2009, abs brakes air con alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking climate control drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering, grey, 9500 miles, £9000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

MODUS, 1.4 EXPRESSION, 2004, cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immob power steering, blue, 46243 miles, £5000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

MODUS, 1.5, 2008, black, 745 miles, £14600, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

SCENIC, VVT Dynamique, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking climate control drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering, black, 25194 miles, £8000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

TWINGO, 1.2, 2008, abs brakes cd player central locking multiple airbags, red, 44 miles, £12500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

TWINGO, 1.2, 2008, red, 288 miles, £24980, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

ROVER

200, 5, s392kba, insurance group 5 2 owners central locking remote central locking power steering drivers airbag immobiliser alarm, fern green, 33000 miles, £1483, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

75, Contemporary SE (LPG), 2004, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player climate control electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint leather interior multiple airbags power steering satellite navigation sports seats trip computer gas conversion remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, silver, 111000 miles, £3000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

SAAB

9-3, 1.8T VECTOR, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning automatic transmission climate control cruise control electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint power steering remote central locking remote audio controls, blue, 5896 miles, £12500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

9-3, 1.8T VECTOR, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning automatic transmission climate control cruise control electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint power steering remote central locking remote audio controls, blue, 5896 miles, £12500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

SEAT

ALHAMBRA, 1.9, 2008, central locking electric windows immobiliser multi cd player, silver, 44 miles, £23000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

ALTEA, 2.0, 2008, abs brakes cd player electric windows immobiliser metallic paint, red, 44 miles, £23500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

ALTEA, 2.0, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted cd player central locking electric windows half leather trim, red, 55 miles, £23500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

IBIZA, 1.4 TDi reference sport, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser multiple airbags power steering sports seats remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, red, 16474 miles, £7000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

LEON, FR TFSI, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking climate control electric windows front fog lights immobiliser power fold mirrors multiple airbags power steering single cd player split folding rear seats sports seats trip computer front passenger air bag deactivation switch remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, red, 19000 miles, £12500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

TOLEDO, 2.0, 2008, blue, 44 miles, £13100, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

SKODA

FABIA, Comfort, 2004, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint power steering trip computer twin airbags remote central locking, silver, 48000 miles, £5280, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

OCTAVIA, TDI PD 170 vRS, 2008, metallic race blue, 21782 miles, £12999, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

OCTAVIA, Ambiente 1.6 Fsi, ye06ubp, alarm, immobiliser, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, colour coded interior, height adjustable seat, lumbar support, rear armrest, adjustable steering column, power steering, traction control, abs, side air bags, twin air bags, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, rear spoiler, rear wash/wipe, roof rails, electric mirrors, electric windows, air conditioning, cd player, alloy wheels, excellent example of this very spacious mid range skoda estate.1.6 petrol engine gives excellent performance and economy, only insurance group 7 and £150 for 12 months road tax.one owner, full history, mot january 2011 and 6 months comprehensive warranty. platinum, 59000 miles, £5990, Kent, 01342 851122 (TRADE)

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Cider's not looking so rosy

KENT'S BUDGET 2010 REACTION

By **STEVE LOADER**
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

CAUGHT between towering cliffs of UK debt and choppy waters from a looming general election, Chancellor Alistair Darling plotted a careful course with what is tipped to be his final Budget.

But it left Kent businesses neither stunned nor elated, though there was a knockback for Kent's small but important cider industry of some 15 producers. They were left reeling from a 13 per cent hike in alcohol duty – 10 per cent now on top of an overall three per cent tax rise on drinks over the next few years.

Mr Darling said targeting cider addressed a long-standing duty anomaly against other alcohol, but it also looked like pre-emption of a Conservative pledge to crack down on strong ciders and their alleged encouragement of under-age and binge drinking.

Unfortunately, in seeking to curb volume brands, Mr Darling also clobbered speciality producers such as Biddenden Vineyards.

MD Julian Barnes said it was a major blow, adding 8-10p to a litre bottle currently selling at £3.10p-3.20p in pubs and threatening to stall the industry's momentum of recent years.

It could get worse too – a Budget footnote revealed that a re-elected Labour Government would seek another increase on top-end ciders in September. Mr Barnes admitted to an irony in the fiscal backlash against the growth of volume ciders like Magners, which had fuelled interest in crafted products like Biddendens, though its awarding-winning still cider is marketed to be sipped rather than quaffed.

KEY POINTS FOR KENT FIRMS

- Need to invest in new plant and machinery? Ceiling for 100 per cent tax relief on capital expenditure on plant and machinery doubled to £100,000
- Need a cash injection? The Government will use its major holding in rescued banks Lloyds and RBS to table £94bn of new business loans, half being ring-fenced for use by smaller firms
- Need more customers? £15bn of new Government contracts available for small and medium-sized firms
- Need a breather? Cuts in business rates for one year from October if Labour is re-elected
- Need to sell up? Threshold for Entrepreneurs' Relief – effectively a 10 per cent capital gains tax on the sale of a business – increased from £1m to £2m
- Need to review the vehicle fleet? Proposed 3p fuel duty increase for April will now be staggered: 1p in April, 1p in October, with the balance in January 2011
- Or need a stiff drink? Alcohol duties to rise by three per cent over next few years with a further 10 per cent on cider – a serious knockback to Kent producers concentrating on the top end of the market

Julian Barnes

"We produce 400,000 litres a year," said Mr Barnes. "That's a serious amount for a small firm, but the new duty will definitely have an effect."

He was also worried about the wider effect on the Produced in Kent food and drink and tourism efforts of recent years, and for farmers likely to see apple production affected.

Looking across the Kent business community, Institute of Directors' regional chief Rodger Broad said: "The Chancellor's forecasts on GDP were long on optimism, but he fell short in terms of the detail on how the Government is going to achieve a credible plan to reduce the deficit. On a more positive note, we certainly welcome the specific measures to support small and medium-sized businesses."

This was echoed by Elizabeth Robertson of Creaseys chartered accountants in Tunbridge Wells, though she had hoped for cuts to headline rates of corporation tax and a stalling of the one per cent rise in employers' National Insurance due next April.

Steve Carpenter

"The Chancellor has erred on the side of caution and avoided radical changes in business tax for fear of it being branded electioneering," she said.

"Many will see this as a missed opportunity to give them a helping hand while they grapple with recession."

Steve Carpenter at accountants DSH of Maidstone said many Budget changes had been flagged already, though the devil would be in the detail: "The only certainties were that the tax rules would become more complex as the Chancellor tries to close loopholes, rather than making changes that could really make a difference. It is the Budget after the election that will contain real measures, regardless of who forms the government."

Institute of Chartered Accountants' regional director Fay Webster liked the Budget's short-term help for businesses, but added: "They need greater clarity on how departmental spending is going to be cut and also if taxes are going to be raised.

"This will have a direct influence on plans to invest and grow. The Budget does not go far enough to improve the transparency and accountability of public spending decisions. We do not know enough about how much is being spent and how well it is spent.

"This Budget was a missed opportunity to underpin long-term sustainable public finances and create a culture of genuine fiscal responsibility by reforming the way money is managed, accounted for and scrutinised."

Sue Hidson

Sue Hidson at accountants Horwath Clark Whitehill was also worried long term: "Due to the dire state of the Treasury's coffers he is not reversing the increases in the top rate of income tax and NI contributions. Worryingly, he is also not reversing the Government's proposal to halve infrastructure spending over the next four years, which will have a major impact on business, especially those serving the public sector."

Sittingbourne's Kent Science Park director James Speck welcomed proposals aiding start-ups and smaller businesses.

He said: "We have been fostering stronger links between business and education, so were pleased to see the Chancellor announce plans for an investment of £25m in a University Enterprise Capital Fund through UK Finance for Growth, to ensure universities are placed to commercialise their knowledge and innovation."

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The adventure goes on down Mexico way

BLUEWATER became the fourth site for award-winning restaurant chain Chilango this weekend.

Specialising in freshly made but affordable Mexican food, Chilango has just been voted Britain's Best Emerging Concept at the Retailer of The Year 'Oscars'.

The company, which already had two sites in London and one in Sheffield and plans another in Brighton later this year, is also unusual for avoiding what co-founder Eric Partaker calls the 'cookie cutter' approach to the group's restaurant design.

DOS AMIGOS: Chilango founders Eric Partaker (left) and Dan Houghton

He said: "Each site will be unique and reflect the nature of the location it opens in – we are a young, nimble, hands-on team – this is just the beginning for us. We are determined to keep getting better and better."

So the outlet at Kent's Bluewater shopping centre draws on Mexico City's modernist architecture and uses brightly coloured laminate tables and a mix of wooden and wire framed furniture from Mexico.

Performances at the group's other sites suggest it will build business fast. Chilango launched less than three years ago but both London sites grew business by about 50 per cent over the past year, despite the recession.

This vindicates the gamble by founders Partaker and Dan Houghton who chucked in their jobs for a two-year tour of Mexico and North America to absorb native skills of using chillis, tomatoes, tomatillos, corn and avocados.

"The British public are incredibly adventurous," said Partaker. "They are hungry for new flavours and new experiences and are not afraid to try something different."

Coolings cuts garden giants down to size

By **STEVE LOADER**
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

INDEPENDENT Kent garden centre Coolings of Sevenoaks has slain national giants in its sector through a customer survey by Which? Gardening.

The national average score for UK garden centres was 55 per cent, but family-owned Coolings scored a huge 89 per cent.

Not only was this ahead of fellow independent and Royal Horticultural Society flagship, Wisley in Surrey (82 per cent), but a crushing 40 per cent better than the score for nationwide group Wyevale (49).

Supermarket and DIY chains operating in the sector also fared badly: Tesco scored 47 per cent, while Homebase and Focus both rated 46.

Which? members shopping at Coolings praised the product quality, staff and eating facilities particularly, awarding five out of five for each. But the Kent centre only achieved two out of five for price, though shoppers clearly felt they got what they paid for.

Which? gardening editor Ceri Thomas said: "While it's not always easy for independent garden centres to beat big chain stores in terms of price, Coolings more than makes up for it in terms of top quality plants and customer service."

GROWTH INDUSTRY: Coolings chairman Paul Cooling (inset) praised the independent garden centre's 187 full and part-time staff after the new Which? Gardening accolade

Coolings operates from two 14-acre sites at Knockholt, Sevenoaks, one being the original garden centre supplying plants and gardening essentials while the newer site, Green and Pleasant, sells garden furniture and other accessories. The company has been rated officially as a UK top 10 garden centre for the past decade and notched a string of awards, including Garden Centre of the Year in 2005 – a title awarded by industry peers – but the Which? accolade was clearly coveted by chairman Paul Cooling.

Grandson to founder Arthur – a local postman who started the original smallholding in Chislehurst as a hobby – he told BusinessforKent: This is a tribute to our fantastic staff, those dealing with customers and the production team in the nursery.

"The majority of our plants are produced on-site and those that aren't come from sources of the highest standards.

"And customers appreciate that they can see exactly what they are buying thanks to our acre of display gardens."

He said Coolings' deliveries to customers suggested its catchment area not only extended across Kent and into Sussex but even north of the Thames, while he knew many customers dropped in to stock up with plants en route to homes on the other side of the Channel.

"We are probably most famous for our hanging basket plants and we make up about 6,000 complete hanging baskets to sell each year," he said.

Coolings is a popular employer, too, judging by interest in 41 seasonal jobs early this year – it had 10 applicants for every post.

This takes the roster to 187 full and part-time staff. Many join temporarily, only to stay on. Coolings' MD Gary Carvosso himself started as a work experience boy and never left.

Disastrous not to plan for the worst scenario

FLOODING emerged as the biggest natural danger to Kent businesses during Business Continuity Awareness Week, from March 22-26.

"Businesses need to have plans in place in case of eventualities like flooding," said Cllr Mike Hill, KCC cabinet member for communities.

"Flooding can destroy your workspace and equipment and prevent you from running your business. You need to think about a back-up plan for your files and a place to continue working until you can return to your premises. If you don't plan well, it could be the end of your business."

But the message of Business Continuity Awareness Week is poor planning for the aftermath of any catastrophe will kill a business more effectively than the disaster itself.

Alison Williams, chairwoman of Whitstable-based marketing agency FDS Group, reckons a disaster recovery plan saved her company after arsonists destroyed its offices.

Having the plan in place sent out a positive signal to customers, but she also recommended getting insurers on-site quickly so funding and finding temporary premises can be speeded up.

"We found dealing with insurance companies stressful and time-consuming. They were not always helpful or co-operative," she said.

Comfortable

"Once we had an insurance assessor on our side who knew the ins and outs, we were much more comfortable.

"Our assessor was paid a percentage of what we received from the insurance. But he more than covered his costs in terms of reducing stress and negotiating a better settlement with the insurers than we could have done.

"There was no time to dwell on the situation. Most of our clients are blue-chip businesses who demand continued service, no matter what, and our offices were uninhabitable.

"Getting operational as quickly as possible was the best way to reassure clients. Having got a fully functioning office, we spent a lot of time making sure customers' confidence in us remained strong."

But she would still do more if disaster struck again, firstly by allocating more staff to winning new business in the period after the fire.

"Our main priority was to keep the business we had, so new business development went on the back burner for a few months," she said.

"As a result, profits growth dipped from 35 per cent a year to just eight in the year after the fire."

Secondly, she would have had more than one year loss-of-earnings insurance in place.

"We've now got three years. If we'd had that cover at the time, it would have taken a lot of the pressure off," she said.

For more on this, go to www.kent.gov.uk/kent-communityriskregister where there is also a competition for firms, schools and the public to enter.

To view, search 'Hadlow' @ yourkenttv.co.uk

Hadlow College has been an agricultural education centre since the 1960s. But as demand for land-based courses has grown, Hadlow has had to keep up with the times and its investment in time and money has paid off. Yourkenttv met the man behind the changes – financial director Mark Lumsdon-Taylor

Strained credibility but little flexibility

TEN years on from pledging to implement new working practices and an improved 'work/life balance', the Government stands accused of failure.

The verdict from management consultants Advanced Workplace Associates (AWA) follows a survey of 20,000 office workers from 40 large corporations, which revealed 91 per cent wanted the more flexible working arrangements pledged by the Government a decade ago – only 21 per cent are able to do that.

AWA said this also means that businesses and the environment are also missing out on potential financial and carbon footprint savings of up to 30 per cent from 'flexi-time' practices.

The company's MD, Andrew Mawson, said that after heralding a new age of work with increased efficiency and improved work/life balance for all, Government commitment and potential benefits to the country had fizzled out.

"Businesses are running offices with a typical occupancy of only 50 per cent, providing facilities, heating and lighting for unused office capacity," said Mawson.

"In environmental terms alone, the Government should be encouraging the uptake of working practices which cut this waste."

STRAWBERRY BLONDE: Soft fruit is being picked and eaten in the county already. Picker Akvile Steponaviciute, from Lithuania, is among those bringing in the crop

KENT has claimed first place in the race to get British-grown strawberries to market for the 2010 season.

And they're being enjoyed locally, too, after S and A Produce of Hernhill, near Faversham, started supplying supermarkets in the county.

Jason Davies-Baker, site director at S and A, said the company was actually a week earlier than usual with supplies.

"Given the horrendous weather this year, you'd be forgiven for assuming the season's strawberries would be delayed," he said.

"However, this achievement is testament to modern techniques. We grow our early strawberries in glasshouses and this method, along with growing our summer supplies on tabletops and in polytunnels, means strawberries are protected from the elements."

Biofuels expert's 'greener' Africa

BIOFUELS expert Professor Patricia Harvey, of the University of Greenwich at Medway, is leading an international project to develop green energy in Africa.

Patricia Harvey

The three-year project aims to replace fossil fuels and support alternative power generation in South Africa, Ghana and Namibia without damaging the environment or harming food production in favour of biofuel crops.

One of the new ventures is looking at oil extraction from the seeds of the long-lived and drought-resistant jatropha tree. It can grow on poor and marginal soils and is often used as a hedging plant, but the oil can power standard diesel engines.

Marine micro-algae thriving in the warm waters off the shores of Namibia are another alternative fuel option, while the research team is also looking at producing biogas from processed agricultural and food waste.

Prof Harvey, head of bioenergy research at the university's school of science, is working alongside academics, scientists and decision-makers from the three African nations, Italy and the UK and the project has been backed by EU funding.

She said: "This is a tremendous challenge, but it's essential we find replacements for fossil fuels and new ways of distributing biofuels and alternative sources of energy between these countries if their economies are to grow.

"There is a huge will for the research to succeed. Every university in South Africa attended our first project workshop, which also included 100 representatives from government and industry at all levels.

"We will be sharing our knowledge and expertise to identify any barriers to the development of non-food biofuels in each area."

Scatter-gun spending squandering billions

IoD urges public sector to unify buying

PUBLIC sector managers have been accused of squandering more than £25 billion a year – losses that could be slashed if they wielded their buying power like the big supermarkets.

By STEVE LOADER
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

The attack was sparked by a report on public sector spending from the Institute of Directors (IoD), representing 14,000 business leaders in the southern region including Kent.

The document argues that £15bn could be saved through restructuring procurement, with £10bn clawed back through greater use of shared services and outsourcing.

"If the public sector were a company, it would have gone out of business long ago," the report concluded, after noting that UK public bodies spend £220bn on procurement annually, equivalent to £3,500 per head of population.

"Politicians just talk about cutting waste – but we have a solution," says the IoD report.

"Taxpayers have a right to expect speedy implementation – it is their investment and their services that will suffer without it. But this will be achieved only with strong leadership from government."

A key problem highlighted in the IoD report is how organisations such as NHS trusts, local authorities and small government departments do their own thing and order supplies and services on a local and separate level – a scatter-gun approach to procurement that is not cost effective.

MILES TEMPLEMAN

Rodger Broad, regional director for the IoD South, said: "Each public body needs to stop thinking, and buying, like a cornershop and instead think of its combined streamlined purchasing power as being more akin to the might of Tesco. The private sector has been squeezed during difficult economic times so it comes as no surprise that the savings spotlight should now be turned on the public sector.

"We are fortunate here in the South East that a relatively small proportion of our economy and jobs is dependant on public money, but in parts of the UK where there is a greater reliance on government supported jobs the need for cutbacks will hit even harder."

Having diagnosed the problem, the IoD claims to have the cure:

- Centralised buying organisations to handle all key supplier relationships and all national and major contracts for the whole public sector.
- Where there are regional and local requirements, regional procurement hubs to provide expert contracting support to all bodies in the region.
- A single leadership point for the above structure such as the Office of Government Commerce, which is already expected to extract best value for Government spending.
- Mandatory use of the above structures by all public bodies.

Miles Templeman, IoD director-general and chairman of Kent brewer Shepherd Neame, said: "The economic situation demands immediate action to reduce public expenditure through implementing the proposals in this IoD paper.

"There is a lot of talk among politicians about the need to introduce efficiencies into the public sector, but very little detail on how this will be done.

"This report provides a much-needed blueprint."

Shorthand revival defies technology

DICTAPHONES, pocket tape recorders and even voice recorders on most modern mobile phones don't seem to be able to kill off the art of shorthand.

In fact, Pitman – the system invented by Isaac Pitman in 1837 – seems to be making a comeback.

Some franchises report that course enrolment levels are up 15 per cent, despite a wealth of technology that argues against taking down notes speedily by hand.

But Pitman spokesman Keith Wymer claims we shouldn't be too surprised.

"With the advent of voice recorders on almost every phone available it's understandable that people started to rely on this easily-accessible technology," he said.

Masked

"However, the problem with these sorts of devices is they record absolutely everything that goes on, potentially leading to important bits of information being masked by someone drumming on the desk, or coughing, or they might just run out of batteries or recording space.

"You also end up having to sit through the entire meeting again to transcribe the useful bits – what a waste of time.

"Shorthand allows you to note down the important bits, leave out the fluff of a meeting or presentation and allows for a much quicker transition from notes to useful material.

"You also tend to be much more switched on if you're taking notes. There' a temptation to doze if all you have to do is hit 'record' and wait for the meeting to finish."

He added that it was a strong addition to anyone's CV and, once learned, is a skill never forgotten and always useful.

Flexibility is king in post-recession world of training

BRITAIN'S economic crash has not only changed the business map, but looks like transforming the world of training, ***writes business editor Steve Loader***.

Managers in the field are talking about greater flexibility in study programmes, wider ranges of topics and more input from companies and their trainees – visions of rigid modules and 'classrooms filled with grown-ups' could be a thing of the past.

Kent Business School (KBS) at the University of Kent at Canterbury believes it is at the head of an innovative training order for the county, with options like Bespoke Business Courses – designed around a company's or individual's needs – and Part Time Executive Education, where individuals can gain a Masters by combining existing work and study and using assignments often based around a real issue/project in their company.

KBS marketing manager Samantha Blanchard told BusinesforKent: "It really is a two-way street; a case of working closely with someone, a company or even a group of companies to design what they need for a specific task.

LEARNING CURVE: KBS training offers flexibility and strategic thinking

"We are, for instance, currently working with a network of companies in the Tunbridge Wells area to help them take their businesses forward and out of the difficult times we've just experienced in the UK."

She said KBS, which promotes itself as "the Business School OF Kent and FOR Kent", had found its part-time courses striking a particular chord with beleaguered businesses and those they release for study.

"The idea that the 'student' can spend a week studying and then return to their company for a week works really well," she said.

"The business is not deprived of a key employee for a long period and the employee can return to work invigorated and able to implement what they have learned over the past week, rather than losing touch or their edge by being away from work for a year.

"I know it works – I did exactly that with my own Masters."

But while the recession had fos-

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Thanet College TRAINING SOLUTIONS

Boosting profits with workshop

SELF-employed business owners in Sittingbourne can attend a free Boost Your Sales and Profits workshop.

Run by Business Link, the publicly-funded business advice and support service, two half-day sessions are being held, from 8.30am and from 1.30pm, at Hempstead House Hotel, London Road, Bapchild, on Thursday, May 6.

Delegates will leave the workshop with a personal action plan including three key tips to improve their business within just 90 days.

Changes

Tony Buddin, head of marketing at Business Link in Kent, said: "This is not your usual workshop where you make a few notes and take home a few pointers – this is a one-off business review, a health check to take a refreshed look at your business and make changes.

"Giving up just a few hours will be time well spent, giving the owner/manager the insight they need to take their business forward. In these uncertain times a workshop such as this, which can help develop your business and realise your aspirations, is a one-off opportunity not to be missed."

To apply for a place, go to www.boostyoursalesandprofits.co.uk.

tered part-time training through better time and cost-effective use of those attending, it had also created other training needs through companies simply needing to slash staffing levels.

Many courses were being taken up by individuals needing to re-train after being made redundant, but there had also been a trend towards training people to replace relatively expensive middle managers axed as companies battled the recession.

Ms Blanchard said: "After redundancies, companies look to get the most out of remaining staff.

"It's less expensive than recruiting, they already know the company and it's easy to send them on a tailored course."

However, she admitted training establishments generally still had some way to go to dispel a traditional phobia, dating back to school-days, of being "preached at in the classroom".

And in the case of KBS, Ms Blanchard said, there were both positives and negatives from being on the campus.

"While we want to be seen as innovative, we don't want to be seen as just another university department.

"On the other hand, there are real benefits from being able to tap into the high-level strategic thinking within 'academia', so what we really want is to be seen as the bridge between the two environments."

SAMANTHA BLANCHARD

Stunning results for health and safety training students

STRONG FOUNDATION: H&S training adds a string to your bow

PASS rates for a key health and safety qualification offered by a Kent site have hit 92 per cent – exceeding the national average by 12 per cent.

The NEBOSH General and Construction Health and Safety Certificate is seen as a strong foundation for managers, supervisors and other employees with these responsibilities.

The above-average result has been achieved by Stunit Risk Training at the Kent Science Park, Sittingbourne, where director Jan Mills said: "The course, which is taught at our dedicated training centre, enables people to inspect a construction site and write a sensible report to management on the findings, which is both persuasive and practical.

"Some 15 per cent of our 88 students achieved a distinction and 44 per cent achieved a credit in our last set of results."

Kent Business School on the UKC campus

How mentoring can help over-50s start a new life in business

SEVENOAKS businessman Peter Abrahams is helping to launch a new mentoring campaign to get older people in the area back to work.

Peter, 63, from West Kingsdown, runs a Kleeneze distribution business in Sevenoaks and is backing a national campaign by the catalogue company in support of the charity PRIME Initiative to help over-50s get back into the job market.

And Peter believes he can help as mentor and trainer for those thinking about starting their own business.

"The recession has impacted the job market as a whole, but those aged over 50 have felt the effects particularly keenly," said Peter.

"Many older people feel they are being let down or neglected when it comes to developing in their current job role, looking for a new job or receiving fair treatment when they come to retirement age."

Research by Kleeneze revealed that 42 per cent of over-50s report that the recession has had a negative effect on their income, with 22 per cent of those aged 55 or over suffering from reduced income from pensions and savings.

Peter joined Kleeneze after being made redundant himself, and said: "I'm now keen to help other people my age discover that there are other earning opportunities out there and prove that life really does begin at 50."

FAVOURITES: Sevenoaks Suns should have too much for Eastside Eagles

Home where the start is for Suns' play-offs

Sevenoaks Suns v Eastside Eagles

TIP-OFF 3PM AT THE SENNOCKE CENTRE

THE road to the play-off final starts here for Sevenoaks Suns' under-18 women as they look to follow a fantastic league season with knockout success.

Having finished top of the EBL south division, the Suns have booked themselves home ties all the way to the last four, starting with the visit of Eastside Eagles, who are unlikely to put up too great a fight.

The Suns won the three league meetings between the two sides by an aggregate margin of 104 points and head coach Len Busch is supremely confident of progressing to the quarter-finals.

"I think Eastside will struggle against our under-18s," he said. "The first round is usually pretty easy if you finish top and we will take care of business. If we stay healthy, we will keep getting stronger as we go through the play-offs."

Experience

Most of the Suns' under-18s travelled north last weekend to play for the club's senior side, who begin their own play-off campaign next Saturday.

Having run Team Northumbria close last week before losing 74-56, they went on to beat Leeds Carnegie 95-81 on Sunday – a result Busch believes can only serve as rich experience for the teenagers as they seek to claim the national under-18 crown.

"It was unbelievable," Busch said. "We only had eight players and five of those were under-18s. We are ready to play anybody - the girls played really well and it was a great weekend for the club. The girls gave up two days to play and I was just hoping they would have a good experience."

The senior women's side conclude their regular season against UWIC Archers tomorrow and are likely to face the same opposition in the play-offs. However, the season ended for the Suns' men last Saturday as they lost 89-65 at Team Solent.

Oaks focus on county trophy after EHL exit

Club eye county cup after heroic display in semi-final defeat

By TONY HUDD

SEVENOAKS will need to win the Kent Cup if they are to put silverware in their trophy cabinet after producing an heroic performance in exiting the EHL Men's Cup semi-final.

The men's 1st XI went down 2-1 to Premier Division side Hampstead & Westminster last weekend after putting in a spirited display which skipper Jamie Nelson described as the team's best performance of the season.

Hampstead & Westminster advance to meet Beeston after they defeated Brooklands 1-0 in the other semi-final.

SEVENOAKS FIXTURES

TODAY

MEN: Sevenoaks 2nd XI v BBHC 1st XI, BBHC 2nd XI v Sevenoaks 3rd XI, Sevenoaks 4A XI v New Beccehamians 2nd XI, Sevenoaks 4th XI v Folkestone 3rd XI, Canterbury 5th XI v Sevenoaks 5A XI, Sevenoaks 5th XI v Ashford 5th XI

SUNDAY

MEN: Sevenoaks 1st XI v Harleston Magpies
LADIES: Harleston Magpies v Sevenoaks 1st XI

"Every player was on the top of his game," Nelson said. "Yes, we're disappointed not to have won but the performance was excellent, we gave it our best shot.

"On another day we could have won. We did our homework and our tactics were spot on. We had chances and if there was any disappointment, it was with that failure to take those chances."

Sevenoaks made the worst possible start in falling behind after six minutes from a penalty corner. A penalty stroke enabled the home side to increase their lead before Ben Allberry made it 2-1 to provoke a furious finale. Sevenoaks carved out four good chances to have levelled as they rattled their Premier Division opposition who were hanging on grimly at the end.

PRIDE: Skipper Jamie Nelson (right) said Sevenoaks gave it everything against Hampstead & Westminster Picture: NICK DUNGAN

The Sevenoaks team switch their focus to the Kent Cup and a semi-final against Maidstone on April 10. In the meantime they play their final league fixture at home to Harleston Magpies tomorrow, looking to avenge their 1-0 defeat by the visitors on the opening day.

Sevenoaks went into last Sunday's semi-final on the back of a 3-3 draw against relegation-threatened Indian Gymkhana just 24 hours earlier. Nick McLaren, Nadeem and Sam Ornbo were on target for Sevenoaks who conceded a late equaliser.

Sevenoaks ladies 1st XI are taking leaders Ipswich to the season's final day as the two fight it out for the EHL Women's Conference East Championship title.

Sevenoaks maintained the pressure with the 3-2 weekend defeat of St Albans. They now go into tomorrow's final league game away to Harleston Magpies needing a goal glut if they are to overhaul Ipswich who are away to Old Loughtonians.

Sevenoaks team manager Christine Crosley explained: "We're tied on points but Ipswich are five goals better off than us. It's stacked against but we'll battle on until the end, though getting a win against Harleston won't be easy."

Cathy Gilliat-Smith, Nicky Lloyd and Jet Van Zalen were on target against St Albans, who found themselves 2-0 down inside the opening seven minutes.

It's going down to the wire

CLUB captain Chris Page conceded Tunbridge Wells' hockey first-team must wait until the end of the season before learning their fate in the scrap to avoid relegation.

A week after boosting their prospects of avoiding the drop following an emphatic 7-0 drubbing of Lewes, the side suffered a set-back after last Saturday's 5-2 loss away to Mid-Sussex.

In their final two league fixtures they play at home against Folkestone today before visiting Herne Bay a week later.

Page said: "It's out of our hands, which is frustrating because there are so many permutations regarding the relegation issue. We won't know the outcome until the last day of the season. All we can do is wait.

"If we can win our next two games we could finish as high as 11th."

Advantage

Folkestone hold a distinct psychological advantage going into today's game having soundly beaten the Wells just before Christmas.

All started well for the Wells against Mid-Sussex with leading scorer Alex Rout scoring his 16th goal of the season to give them an early lead.

The unlucky Callum Wood appeared to have increased their lead with a shot that flew through a hole in the side-netting which the umpire ruled had gone wide.

Mid-Sussex, who went into the game on the back of victory against Gore Court a week earlier, hit back to take a 4-1 lead before Billy Priestley replied. But the home side had the final say with a fifth.

Picture: NICK DUNGAN

BOOST: Tunbridge Wells thrashed Lewes to keep their hopes of staying up alive

Wells Vintage Vets put a smile on club faces by reaching the final of the EHL Vintage Plate after seeing off Sutton Coldfield 6-1 thanks to goals from Adrian Schweitzer (two), David McNamara, Alan Nicholson, Paul Bowden and Robin Holliday.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS FIXTURES

TODAY

MEN: Tunbridge Wells 1st XI v Folkestone 1st XI, Folkestone 2nd XI v Tunbridge Wells 2nd XI, Tunbridge Wells 4th XI v Holcombe 4th XI, Cobdown 1st XI v Tunbridge Wells 4th XI
LADIES: Tunbridge Wells 1st XI v Letchworth 1st XI, Maidstone 3rd XI v Tunbridge Wells 3rd XI, Cliftonville 1st XI v Tunbridge Wells 4th XI, Tunbridge Wells 5th XI v Bromley and Beckenham 5th XI, Old Bordenians 3rd XI v Tunbridge Wells 3rd XI

They meet New Beccehamians in an all-Kent final on Saturday, April 17.

The club's ladies first-team play their final league game of the season at home to Letchworth today looking to follow up last weekend's six-point haul against Brentwood and Gore Court.

Victory could hoist the Wells as high as fourth as they look to end their season with a flourish.

Team captain Jen Hunt said: "It all depends on how other results go, but if we can get another win we could finish fourth which would be a terrific achievement."

Tania Minns scored a hat-trick with Hunt adding the other in Saturday's 4-2 defeat of Brentwood. They team produced a superior performance in seeing off Gore Court 3-0 on Sunday.

Harriet Alexander (2) and Izzy Miller were on target.

NON-LEAGUE PREVIEW By Steve Tervet

Finishing line approaching

LESS than a month remains for Kent's Ryman League sides to determine their destiny as the promotion and relegation scrambles intensify.

Three midweek Kent derbies were among a host of games to throw a new complexion on the season and all the county's clubs will be desperate for victory this afternoon.

RYMAN PREMIER DIVISION

Billericay Town v Cray Wanderers

CRAY are not safe from relegation as they start the day six points above the bottom four, one place and one point above today's opponents, Billericay.

Wanderers hold the division's second-worst defensive record and lost 2-0 when the sides met at Hayes Lane in August, while only Maidstone have scored fewer goals in the Ryman Premier than Billericay.

Boreham Wood v Margate

BLUES boss Iain O'Connell is sweating on the fitness of midfielders Ty Benjamin and Nick Barnes, with both doubtful to play any part at Boreham Wood today.

Tuesday's 1-0 win at leaders Dartford was a huge boost to the Gate's survival bid, but they will also be without John Keister this afternoon, who begins a four-game suspension. Boreham start the day fifth but have lost four of their last six home games.

Dartford v Hastings United

DARTFORD have the league title virtually sewn up but are limping towards the finishing line after a shock defeat against lowly Margate.

The defeat was the Darts' third in four outings at Princes Park, where they have won only two of their last eight games. Hastings' away record is equally dismal, with no wins in eight attempts.

Maidstone United v Wealdstone

RELEGATION suddenly looms large for Maidstone after two derby defeats in the space of a week and just one home win in nine attempts.

Nathan Paul (knee) is missing today while Dean Rance is out for the season after limping off against Tonbridge on Tuesday. Tom Parkinson is close to fitness, though, and Chris Saunders returns after suspension.

Picture: DAVE COULDRIDGE

KEY GAME: (l-r) Tonbridge and Maidstone, pictured during Wednesday's game, both have vital home fixtures today

Tonbridge Angels v Waltham Abbey

TONBRIDGE could break into the Ryman Premier play-offs with victory over struggling Waltham Abbey at Longmead Stadium – their third consecutive home game.

Tommy Warrilow's side sit top of the form table after seven wins from their last eight games, and a four-game winning run which has seen them net 10 times. Angels came from behind to defeat bitter rivals Maidstone United 2-1 on Tuesday and Warrilow is expected to name an unchanged side.

RYMAN DIVISION ONE SOUTH

Folkestone Invicta v Fleet Town

NEIL Cugley is likely to name the same Invicta side that snatched a dramatic win at Worthing last Saturday, with James Everitt partnering Brendon Cass up front.

Folkestone, boasting an 11-game unbeaten run at Cheriton Road, face a test of their promotion credentials as Fleet Town arrive just one place below them in Ryman South.

Godalming Town v Ashford Town

ASHFORD have clawed their way out of the Ryman South relegation zone in recent weeks but have their work cut out if they are to snare a result in Surrey today.

Godalming, beaten 2-1 at home by Ramsgate last Saturday, will be desperate to get their own play-off push back on track, although the Nuts & Bolts have only lost one of their last five away games.

Horsham YMCA v Chatham Town

CHATHAM'S slide continued in midweek with a 4-3 reverse at Corinthian Casuals – an eighth defeat in 10 outings for Alex O'Brien's side.

Michael Scott is on trial with League Two club Barnet so will not play, but strikers Jack Pullen and Rob Denness both netted on Tuesday and will continue to lead the line. Horsham have not conceded in their last three home games.

Merstham v Whitstable Town

MARK Lane takes charge of his second game as caretaker Whitstable manager, having started his reign with a 1-0 win over Kent rivals Ramsgate on Tuesday.

Captain Sam Denly played 90 minutes – his metatarsal injury was less serious than was first thought – and the Oystermen, caught in a five-way tussle for survival, are likely to be unchanged for their trip to Surrey.

Ramsgate v Walton & Hersham

WITH little to play for, Ramsgate's inconsistency of late is perhaps understandable, with an impressive win at Godalming undermined by derby defeat at Whitstable in midweek.

Rams boss Jim Ward withdrew his strike pairing of Joe Taylor and Gary Lockyer at the halfway stage and their replacements, Gary Mickelborough and Tom Tsangarides, could play from the start today. It is 15 weeks since Ramsgate recorded a home win.

Sittingbourne v Worthing

TODAY'S game will be Bourne's ninth this month and the strain of their hectic scramble for a play-off place is beginning to show.

The Brickies have played twice since today's opponents Worthing were beaten 2-1 by Folkestone Invicta last Saturday – a result which ended their seven-game winning streak.

NON-LEAGUE FIXTURES TODAY

All games kick off at 3pm unless otherwise stated:

RYMAN PREMIER DIVISION: Billericay Town v Cray Wanderers; Boreham Wood v Margate; Dartford v Hastings United; Maidstone United v Wealdstone; Tonbridge Angels v Waltham Abbey

RYMAN ONE SOUTH: Folkestone Invicta v Fleet Town; Godalming Town v Ashford Town; Horsham YMCA v Chatham Town; Merstham v Whitstable Town; Ramsgate v Walton & Hersham; Sittingbourne v Worthing

Bay aim to make most of games in hand

KENT LEAGUE PREVIEW

HERNE Bay have a chance to claw some points back in the race for the Kent League title as they play one of their games in hand on leaders Faversham Town.

This afternoon's visit of lowly Sporting Bengal is the first of three games in hand Bay have on Faversham, who remain top of the Premier Division by 13 points after both sides suffered shock defeats last weekend.

While Faversham were beaten 1-0 at home to Fisher to lose their unbeaten home record, Bay were unable to capitalise as they also went down 1-0 to Corinthian.

With Faversham not playing this afternoon, their advantage at the top could be cut to 10 points if Herne Bay beat Sporting Bengal at Winch's Field.

Deal Town are fast becoming the surprise package of the season as the campaign reaches its conclusion. Last Saturday Derek Hares' team swept aside high-flying Sevenoaks Town with a 4-2 win at Greatness Park, which moved them to seventh with a game in hand on the majority of their rivals.

Picture: IGOR KUPCO

CATCH-UP: Herne Bay skipper Sean Bremner

Today they face Erith Town at the Charles Ground, which has become a fortress for Deal after suffering just one league defeat there all season. Three points could send Deal into the top five for the first time this season.

Sevenoaks hope to bounce back from their defeat to Deal as they host in-form Greenwich Borough, who have lost just once in their last five outings.

Hythe Town's season seems to be slipping away following a fourth consecutive 1-1 draw against Greenwich Borough last week. Town could still finish runners-up, but need a win against lowly Holmesdale to help make sure.

Elsewhere, Norton Sports are looking for their first win since January when they meet Tunbridge Wells at Culverden.

KENT LEAGUE FIXTURES TODAY

All games kick off at 3pm unless otherwise stated:

KENT LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION: Deal Town v Erith Town, Erith & Belvedere v Corinthian, Herne Bay v Sporting Bengal United, Holmesdale v Hythe Town, Lordswood v Beckenham Town, Sevenoaks Town v Greenwich Borough, Tunbridge Wells v Norton Sports

FOOTBALL LEAGUE TABLES

COCA COLA LEAGUE ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Norwich City	37	24	7	6	77	38	+39	79
2 Leeds United	37	20	11	6	62	32	+30	71
3 Millwall	37	19	11	7	58	35	+23	68
4 Charlton Athletic	37	18	13	6	63	44	+19	67
5 Swindon Town	37	18	13	6	57	45	+12	67
6 Colchester United	37	18	10	9	55	40	+15	64
7 Huddersfield Town	37	17	10	10	63	45	+18	61
8 Milton Keynes Dons	37	17	5	15	53	54	-1	56
9 Bristol Rovers	37	17	4	16	49	50	-1	55
10 Southampton (-10)	37	17	12	8	67	38	+29	53
11 Carlisle United	38	12	12	14	51	54	-3	48
12 Walsall	37	12	11	14	44	50	-6	47
13 Brentford	35	10	14	11	40	42	-2	44
14 Yeovil Town	38	11	11	16	46	52	-6	44
15 Brighton & Hove	37	11	11	15	45	52	-7	44
16 Leyton Orient	37	10	11	16	44	53	-9	41
17 Oldham Athletic	36	10	10	16	30	43	-13	40
18 Gillingham	**37**	**9**	**12**	**16**	**37**	**48**	**-11**	**39**
19 Hartlepool United	37	10	9	18	46	58	-12	39
20 Tranmere Rovers	36	10	8	18	31	56	-25	38
21 Southend United	37	9	10	18	41	54	-13	37
22 Exeter City	37	8	13	16	38	52	-14	37
23 Wycombe Wanderers	37	6	13	18	40	65	-25	31
24 Stockport County	37	5	9	23	31	68	-37	24

BLUE SQUARE PREMIER

1 Stevenage Borough	35	22	9	4	65	23	+42	75
2 Luton Town	36	21	7	8	57	35	+22	70
3 Oxford United	34	20	9	5	55	25	+30	69
4 York City	36	18	10	8	45	28	+17	64
5 Rushden & Diamonds	35	18	9	8	64	32	+32	63
6 Kettering Town	37	17	8	12	43	32	+11	59
7 AFC Wimbledon	35	16	9	10	55	31	+24	57
8 Mansfield Town	37	16	9	12	59	46	+13	57
9 Crawley Town	36	16	7	13	43	47	-4	55
10 Altrincham	36	12	14	10	45	35	+10	50
11 Kidderminster	34	13	9	12	45	37	+8	48
12 Wrexham	36	11	11	14	36	35	+1	44
13 Cambridge United	35	10	13	12	50	45	+5	43
14 Hayes & Yeading	36	11	10	15	52	64	-12	43
15 Histon	36	11	10	15	37	49	-12	43
16 Tamworth	36	8	14	14	29	39	-10	38
17 Gateshead (-1)	36	11	6	19	41	60	-19	38
18 Salisbury City (-10)	35	14	5	16	42	54	-12	37
19 Barrow	33	9	10	14	37	52	-15	37
20 Ebbsfleet United	**39**	**9**	**8**	**22**	**40**	**72**	**-32**	**35**
21 Eastbourne Borough	37	7	13	17	31	60	-29	34
22 Forest Green Rovers	36	8	9	19	38	64	-26	33
23 Grays Athletic	36	3	11	22	30	74	-44	20

BLUE SQUARE SOUTH

© Newport County	36	27	7	2	79	19	+60	88
2 Chelmsford City	35	19	7	9	50	37	+13	64
3 Braintree Town	36	16	15	5	49	34	+15	63
4 Staines Town	36	16	12	8	53	34	+19	60
5 Welling United	**36**	**17**	**8**	**11**	**61**	**42**	**+19**	**59**
6 Dover Athletic	**35**	**17**	**8**	**10**	**55**	**41**	**+14**	**59**
7 Bath City	35	15	11	9	56	43	+13	56
8 Thurrock	35	15	10	10	60	47	+13	55
9 Woking	35	15	9	11	44	41	+3	54
10 Eastleigh	36	15	8	13	64	56	+8	53
11 Havant & Waterlooville	35	13	13	9	42	39	+3	52
12 St Albans City	35	15	7	13	40	43	-3	52
13 Bromley	**35**	**14**	**8**	**13**	**54**	**49**	**+5**	**50**
14 Basingstoke Town	36	12	7	17	45	59	-14	43
15 Dorchester Town	36	11	9	16	46	59	-13	42
16 Maidenhead United	35	10	11	14	43	44	-1	41
17 Hampton & Richmond	34	10	9	15	45	56	-11	39
18 Bishop's Stortford	36	10	8	18	38	53	-15	38
19 Worcester City	36	8	9	19	41	53	-12	33
20 Lewes	34	4	14	16	35	56	-21	26
21 Weston-super-Mare	35	4	8	23	42	73	-31	20
22 Weymouth	36	4	6	26	28	92	-64	18

RYMAN PREMIER

1 Dartford	**33**	**22**	**4**	**7**	**77**	**35**	**+42**	**70**
2 Kingstonian	35	18	6	11	63	54	+9	60
3 Sutton United	34	17	8	9	52	34	+18	59
4 Hastings United	34	15	8	11	54	45	+9	53
5 Boreham Wood	35	16	5	14	46	41	+5	53
6 Tonbridge Angels	**34**	**15**	**6**	**13**	**59**	**58**	**+1**	**51**
7 Tooting & Mitcham	36	14	9	13	52	52	0	51
8 Aveley	32	14	6	12	61	51	+10	48
9 Horsham	35	14	6	15	57	55	+2	48
10 Wealdstone	32	12	12	8	52	52	0	48
11 Canvey Island	35	13	9	13	49	49	0	48
12 AFC Hornchurch	34	12	11	11	39	38	+1	47
13 Hendon	33	13	6	14	46	45	+1	45
14 Harrow Borough	34	11	10	13	49	50	-1	43
15 Ashford Town (Middlesex)	34	11	10	13	57	63	-6	43
16 Cray Wanderers	**35**	**12**	**6**	**17**	**45**	**62**	**-17**	**42**
17 Billericay Town	34	10	11	13	35	36	-1	41
18 Maidstone United	**34**	**10**	**9**	**15**	**31**	**44**	**-13**	**39**
19 Margate	**34**	**9**	**9**	**16**	**41**	**62**	**-21**	**36**
20 Carshalton Athletic	33	8	11	14	43	53	-10	35
21 Waltham Abbey	33	9	8	16	40	55	-15	35
22 Bognor Regis Town	33	7	12	14	36	50	-14	33

RYMAN DIVISION ONE SOUTH

1 Croydon Athletic	32	21	6	5	74	34	+40	69
2 Worthing	34	21	3	10	70	43	+27	66
3 Folkestone Invicta (-10)	**33**	**23**	**6**	**4**	**42**	**18**	**+24**	**65**
4 Fleet Town	34	18	5	11	63	43	+20	59
5 Godalming Town (-3)	32	19	3	10	57	39	+18	57
6 Walton & Hersham	35	16	7	12	51	45	+6	55
7 Sittingbourne	**32**	**16**	**5**	**11**	**55**	**35**	**+20**	**53**
8 Leatherhead	32	15	6	11	57	41	+16	51
9 Burgess Hill Town	32	14	9	9	49	41	+8	51
10 Horsham YMCA	36	12	13	11	58	53	+5	49
11 Metropolitan Police	33	13	9	11	47	37	+10	48
12 Corinthian-Casuals	35	14	3	18	56	69	-13	45
13 Whyteleafe	35	13	5	17	54	50	+4	44
14 Ramsgate	**34**	**11**	**11**	**12**	**50**	**54**	**-4**	**44**
15 Merstham	35	11	9	15	55	68	-13	42
16 Chatham Town	**35**	**13**	**3**	**19**	**50**	**66**	**-16**	**42**
17 Dulwich Hamlet	34	10	10	14	44	51	-7	40
18 Chipstead	33	8	7	18	35	52	-17	31
19 Ashford Town	**31**	**7**	**8**	**16**	**40**	**69**	**-29**	**29**
20 Whitstable Town	**33**	**9**	**2**	**22**	**25**	**68**	**-43**	**29**
21 Eastbourne Town	34	6	10	18	28	58	-30	28
22 Walton Casuals	36	6	8	22	35	61	-26	26

KENT LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

1 Faversham Town	23	18	2	3	60	20	40	56
2 Herne Bay	20	14	1	5	46	27	19	43
3 Beckenham Town	23	12	5	6	45	25	20	41
4 Sevenoaks Town	22	12	4	6	49	38	11	40
5 Greenwich Borough	24	10	7	7	43	35	8	37
6 Hythe Town	22	9	8	5	47	23	24	35
7 Erith Town	22	9	6	7	43	36	7	33
8 Deal Town	22	9	6	7	42	42	0	33
9 Erith & Belvedere	23	9	6	8	41	46	-5	33
10 Tunbridge Wells	23	7	7	9	40	42	-2	28
11 Holmesdale	22	8	3	11	38	37	1	27
12 Sporting Bengal	28	7	4	17	41	82	-41	25
13 Norton Sports	22	6	6	10	30	36	-6	24
14 Fisher	23	5	5	13	29	52	-23	20
15 Corinthian	24	5	3	16	25	55	-30	18
16 Lordswood	23	2	9	12	24	47	-23	15

© *League champions*

Pictures: Combs by IGOR KUPCO, Farnham-Rose by MARK HOOKWAY

BIG CHANCE: Andy Combs and Robbie Farnham-Rose (inset) run for England

Duo picked for England cross country squad

TONBRIDGE Athletic Club runners Andy Combs and Robbie Farnham-Rose will represent England in two high-profile international cross-country events this afternoon.

Under-20 runner Combs, who came so close to securing a place in Great Britain's world championship squad, will represent England in the Home Countries International held at Mansfield.

The 18-year-old has enjoyed a successful season having finished sixth at the World Cross Country Championship trials this month and a victory in the under-20 category at the Kent Cross Country Championship in February.

While Combs will be aiming to continue his impressive season in Nottinghamshire, Farnham-Rose heads to Cornwall to compete in the SIAB Schools Cross Country International taking place at Truro.

The under-17 runner earned selection for the meeting after finishing fifth at the English Schools Cross Country Championships last weekend. He will join up with an England squad of eight runners to compete against Wales, Scotland and Ireland.

COUNTY LEAGUE ROUND-UP

TONBRIDGE Invicta are at home to Bearsted this afternoon in the Premier Division, after their relegation woes deepened when they slipped to 14th last week following a 2-1 loss at Phoenix Sports.

Rusthall, beaten 3-0 at Jockey Farm last week by leaders Stansfeld O&B, are at home to second-from-bottom Coney Hall, looking to halt a run of five games without a win.

The Rustics will be without Luis Lodeiro, who continues to serve a 35-day ban for violent conduct.

The Division 2 East table was adjusted this week following the withdrawal of Hamstreet FC.

Pembury could lift themselves off the bottom if they beat Malgo at home and Tenterden fail to beat Lydd.

Hawkenbury face a long trek to Chartham Sports while AFC Sevenoaks, who stay third after losing a crucial game at home to second-placed Bredhurst 2-1 last week, have a derby with Platt United.

In the East Sussex League Hawkhurst United, who drew 3-3 at Hollington United last week and remain third, have a rearranged Division Three fixture at home to Magham Down.

In Division Four Cranbrook Town defend a four-point lead at the top away to Hastings Rangers, having thrashed Punnets Town 5-1 last week.

Pictures: DAVE COULDRIDGE

CELEBRATION: Adam Burchell is mobbed after scoring against Harrow Borough last weekend and (inset) Sam Long is in fine form

Fortress Longmead

Angels boss in call to show visiting teams no mercy

By TOM HOWARD & GLENN PEARSON

Tonbridge Angels v Waltham Abbey

KICK-OFF 3PM AT LONGMEAD STADIUM

WITH six of Tonbridge Angels' remaining eight games of the season coming against sides around them in the Ryman Premier table, a spot in the play-offs is very much in their own hands.

Tommy Warrilow's side still have Harrow Borough, Wealdstone, Boreham Wood, Aveley, Horsham and AFC Hornchurch to play before the end of April, which means if the Angels do miss out on a spot in the top-five, it will be down to their own failings.

The Angels' super run of form continued in midweek with a 2-1 derby win against Maidstone United, which means Tonbridge have won seven of their last eight games – the other being a draw – to move up to sixth in the division.

Just two points separate them from fifth-placed Boreham Wood, who have played a game more than Warrilow's side, ahead of this afternoon's visit of Waltham Abbey.

Today's game is one of two against sides in a relegation battle – the other being against Margate – and Angels will need to continue their good run to remain in contention at the top.

The Angels boss is starting to get some of his players back from injury and has urged the side, and Tonbridge supporters, to help make Longmead a difficult place to play for opposing teams.

"The play-off bid is gathering momentum and it is coming when we are getting a few players back from injury," he said.

"Waltham is going to be similar to the Maidstone game – no walk in the park. They are fighting for their lives and will make it difficult for us. They have picked up impressive results against Hendon and Boreham Wood and although they are towards the bottom of the table, it's not going to be easy.

"I think we have to make Longmead a bit of a fortress. The atmosphere and the noise on Tuesday made it a hostile place and that could really help us in the final games as we try to get in the play-offs."

Angels followed up last weekend's 3-1 win away at Harrow Borough with victory against Maidstone in midweek, thanks to a Sam Long strike and an own goal.

While the performance wasn't as good as Tonbridge have displayed in recent weeks, getting maximum points was the most important thing for Warrilow.

"In derby games football tends to go out the window and it is all about the result," he said. "The second-half was a battle, but we came through and got the points with a performance that was below par, but one required to win the game."

Warrilow is likely to name an unchanged line-up for the third game in a row, despite Anthony Storey, Marc Cumberbatch (groin) and Meshach Nugent (hairline fracture) all close to a return to action.

Town return to league after cup exploits

Sevenoaks Town v Greenwich Borough

KICK-OFF 3PM AT GREATNESS PARK

AFTER the ecstasy of the midweek Kent League Premier Division Cup semi-final win over Beckenham, Sevenoaks Town need to be wary of a Greenwich Borough side well-equipped to bring them down to earth this afternoon.

Sevenoaks were beaten 4-2 at home by Deal last Saturday, but then travelled to Beckenham on Tuesday in the cup and drew 3-3, (5-5 on aggregate).

The away goals rule saw them qualify for their first-ever senior cup final thanks to a dramatic equaliser in the final minute of injury time from Billy Shinners.

"I thought we were very much the underdogs," admitted manager Simon Jones. "But I thought we had a chance, for no rational reason than we were due a performance against these guys, because they had the chances to win the game in the first leg."

Picture: NICK DUNGAN

APPEAL: Simon Jones' misconduct charge was dropped by the KCFA this week

Joe Minter gave Town a 22nd-minute lead, but Beckenham, who twice hit the bar in the first-half, drew level 10 minutes into the second.

Minter struck his second on 65 minutes, but Beckenham equalised with just four minutes left and then took the lead in the first-half of extra-time.

Jones decided to go for broke, playing with four up front, and in the dying seconds Shinners turned in Chris Walker's cross, triggering an eruption of joy on the visiting bench.

"The legs are very tired," said Jones, who now has to decide how to shuffle his pack for the Greenwich game.

"I brought in Malik Fofana from the reserves and he did very well, so I've got to decide whether or not to stick with him. The three lads who were cup-tied [Tony Atkins, Bader Mohamed and John Maloney] will also come back in.

"Greenwich are absolutely flying at the moment. They're a strong side and if we go in half-hearted we'll get exactly what we got against Deal last week."

SIMON Jones won his appeal against a misconduct charge last week, when the KCFA ruled he had "no case to answer" having been sent off during a game with Faversham in November. The panel accepted it was a case of mistaken identity.

Wells in struggle to move out of danger

Club out to tame Bulls in bid to avoid relegation

By STEVE TERVET

Aylesford Bulls RFC v Tunbridge Wells RFC

KICK-OFF 3PM AT JACK WILLIAMS GROUND

TUNBRIDGE Wells hope to haul themselves out of the London 1 South relegation zone by the end of the day having dropped deeper into the mire last weekend.

A trip to relegated Aylesford Bulls provides the perfect opportunity for Wells to get their heads above water but they are reliant on results elsewhere if they are to climb away from danger.

Fellow strugglers Old Elthamians are now a point above Wells but face the toughest of tests today as they travel to champions-elect Gravesend, who need a win to claim the title.

Pity

The Wells could only draw 27-27 with Chobham last Saturday, conceding an injury-time penalty, while Elthamians won again, 14-6 against Beckenham.

Chobham were awarded two tries which had to be verified by the touch judge but Wells chairman Roger Clarke refused to blame the incidents for his side's failure to grind out the win they craved.

He said: "It's a pity such close games can hang on one decision but we're not in this position because of one referee's decision, so I'm not criticising that.

"It was hugely frustrating [to give away the late penalty] but these things happen and when people know it's a big game they want to win the ball even more."

Lewis Russell, Steve Daly and Tom Hathaway all return to the side today while Chris Veal switches to second row.

Luke Giles, who scored 22 of Wells' points, retains his place after an impressive performance in tricky conditions.

Clarke admitted Tunbridge Wells' fate is largely in Gravesend's hands and said mental preparations for this afternoon's game had been tough with the Bulls bringing such poor form into the game.

"I hope Gravesend play to form," he said. "There have been some strange results this season but they have been consistent. We can only hope they do what they are supposed to do.

"We have prepared as if we were playing a side higher up the league.

"Psychologically, it is difficult and Wells are known for playing better rugby against the better sides.

"We will get a better share of the ball and we need to be clinical when we get it."

Picture: NICK DUNGAN

TOP FORM: Luke Giles (with ball) scored 22 points in last week's draw against Chobham

East Peckham fight for runners-up spot

EAST Peckham travel to Medway 3rds this afternoon, still in with a shout for second place in the Mid Kent & East Sussex 'A' table.

They thrashed bottom side Old Gravesendians 71-3 at Putlands last week after the Villagers' backs tore OGs to shreds, with every one of the three-quarters and half-backs touching down.

Kicker Steve Guthrie had an excellent afternoon, finishing with 21 points, while Marc Wright, who scored a hat-trick, collected the man-of-the-match award.

Peckham are third in the table with two games remaining, three points behind Gravesend 3rds.

Promotion hopes left in tatters

Sevenoaks RFC v Old Dunstonians RFC

KICK-OFF 3PM AT KNOLE PADDOCK

THE lights finally went out on Sevenoaks' promotion hopes last week with the top two both winning, but they remain on course for a highly-respectable finish in London 2 South East.

Victory in their final two games, starting with today's clash with Old Dunstonians at Knole Paddock, will confirm third-place - realistically the highest they could hope for after losing two key games in February.

Sevenoaks' lingering chances of reaching second spot were extinguished last week when Hove beat KCS Old Boys 29-18, but Oaks coach James Leverington was anything but distraught.

"There was no tinge of disappointment," he said. "I don't concern myself with things beyond my control. We won, we had no injuries, so we went straight into thinking about the next game."

The Oaks ground out a 17-11 win last weekend against Warlingham, a side who could yet deny them third spot if they win their games in hand.

The forwards, who were largely eclipsed by the backs during the previous week's rout of Eastbourne, proved crucial this time out.

They completely dominated their Surrey opponents and laid the foundation for Al Barber and Matt Dodd to score tries.

"Conditions weren't really tough, even though it was very slippery on hand and underfoot," Leverington said. "But this is England, so you would think we'd be used to it by now."

Asked if he got more satisfaction from this kind of dogged victory than the Eastbourne thrashing, Leverington said: "Not really, as long as both wins show off what we've been practising midweek. But it is satisfying to beat a top of the table side, regardless of points, if you put in a good performance."

When Sevenoaks visited Dunstonians in December they routed them 48-3, leaving the Sevenoaks coach wary of a backlash this afternoon.

"It'll be a tough, gritty game," he said. "After our win away they will want to put that right, but we will treat it as any other game and plan and prepare like we do for all the others."

Picture: NICK DUNGAN

STAYING PUT: Sevenoaks have missed out on promotion this season

Picture: NICK DUNGAN

CLOSE: Cranbrook only need to avoid defeat to clinch a play-off place

Cranes one step from play-offs

Cranbrook RFC v Gillingham Anchorians RFC

KICK-OFF 3PM AT THE TOMLIN GROUND

CRANBROOK will rubber-stamp a play-off spot if they avoid defeat at home to Gillingham Anchorians in Kent 1 today.

The Cranes will be at near full strength for the game at the Tomlin Ground, with Andy Clarke and South African Ryan Odendaal back from the respective rib and calf injuries that kept them out of last week's 26-12 defeat at Dartfordians.

Other results went the Cranes' way, meaning only two heavy defeats in their last two games can deny them second spot.

Sittingbourne's 5-26 defeat to Old Olavains means they can no longer catch Cranbrook, while Guy's slumped 7-23 to Sheppey at home.

In theory they could still overhaul the Cranes by winning their final two games, but are reportedly facing a points deduction and have a vastly inferior points difference (by 60).

Cranes' director of rugby, Mike Catt, says his side still need to win their final two games to give themselves a chance of home advantage in the play-offs.

"It looks like we'll be playing Uckfield," he said. "But we'll probably need them to lose two of their last four games and win our last two to get a home game."

Catt said his side weren't too despondent after the Dartfordians loss.

Tries from Alex Welham and Hamish Startin, plus a Startin conversion, kept Cranbrook in with a shout until the dying moments when an interception try gave the scoreline a flattering look.

"The boys were positive afterwards," Catt said. "We possibly made a mistake when Andy Clarke cried off late because we had to reshuffle and by moving our hooker to the flank they outscrummaged us, but we really want to get them in the Kent Salver final because we think we can beat them."

RUGBY LEAGUE TABLES

LONDON 1 SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PD	Pts
1 Gravesend	24	22	0	2	574	247	+327	44
2 Dover	22	18	1	3	544	271	+273	37
3 Cobham	24	16	0	8	485	353	+132	32
4 Sidcup	22	15	1	6	496	317	+179	31
5 Chichester	24	13	0	11	448	309	+139	26
6 Beckenham	24	12	2	10	490	409	+81	26
7 Old Colfeians	23	12	0	11	497	469	+28	24
8 Wimbledon	24	12	0	12	388	416	-28	24
9 Thanet Wanderers	23	11	1	11	436	411	+25	23
10 Chobham	24	10	2	12	499	471	+28	22
11 Old Elthamians	23	9	0	14	386	389	-3	18
12 Tunbridge Wells	**23**	**8**	**1**	**14**	**354**	**500**	**-146**	**17**
13 Maidstone	24	1	0	23	219	855	-636	2
14 Aylesford Bulls	24	1	0	23	257	656	-399	0

LONDON 2 SOUTH EAST

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PD	Pts
1 Tonbridge Juddians	**19**	**19**	**0**	**0**	**995**	**140**	**+855**	**38**
2 Hove	19	16	1	2	544	249	+295	33
3 Sevenoaks	**20**	**14**	**0**	**6**	**596**	**471**	**+125**	**28**
4 Lewes	20	12	1	7	424	374	+50	25
5 Warlingham	18	11	1	6	503	225	+278	23
6 Old Reigatian	20	8	1	11	406	472	-66	17
7 KCS Old Boys	20	8	1	11	368	614	-246	17
8 Purley John Fisher	20	8	0	12	357	429	-72	16
9 Deal & Betteshanger	20	7	0	13	304	419	-115	14
10 Old Dunstonians	20	6	0	14	284	613	-329	12
11 Bromley	20	5	1	14	355	590	-235	11
12 Eastbourne	20	1	0	19	185	725	-540	2

KENT 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PD	Pts
1 Dartfordians	20	19	0	1	555	156	+399	38
2 Cranbrook	**20**	**15**	**0**	**5**	**459**	**255**	**+204**	**30**
3 Guy's Hospital	19	12	0	7	486	342	+144	24
4 Sittingbourne	19	11	1	7	406	317	+89	23
5 Gillingham Anchorians	19	9	1	9	385	301	+84	19
6 Vigo	20	9	1	10	294	294	0	19
7 Old Olavians	20	8	1	11	326	411	-85	17
8 Sheppey	20	8	0	12	354	418	-64	16
9 Ashford	19	7	2	10	302	374	-72	16
10 Beccehamian	17	5	1	11	242	437	-195	11
11 HSBC	20	5	0	15	264	390	-126	10
12 Erith	19	4	1	14	166	544	-378	7

Picture: DUNCAN MACKIE

UNTOUCHABLE: Tonbridge Juddians have not lost a league game this season

TJs SET TO CROSS THE FINISH LINE

The 'unbeatables' set for title victory today

By **FRED ATKINS**

KCS Old Boys RFC v Tonbridge Juddians RFC

KICK-OFF 3PM AT ARTHUR ROAD

WHAT has seemed inevitable for months now should come to pass this afternoon, as Tonbridge Juddians look set to clinch the London 2 South title with victory away to KCS Old Boys.

Their probable coronation was delayed last week when, despite a 32-0 victory over Old Reigatians, their closest rivals Hove also won, beating KCS 29-18 to keep the title race alive for another week.

If the unbeaten league leaders are to get a result this afternoon they will have to do so without regular kicker Shaun Cooper, who tore a stomach muscle in last week's match.

Otherwise the visitors will be in rude health, with coach Peter Dankert admitting he had been given a number of dilemmas by the way his supposedly under-strength side performed last week.

"We were probably six players short of our first choice selection due to injuries and resting various players," he said. "But we controlled everything very well, stole four or five balls from their scrums and I don't think they won a line-out for the whole of the second-half.

Strong

"We brought in about four second-team players and they've given us more headaches, but whoever we pick, we'll have a very strong team on the park."

Conditions were miserable at The Slade, but Sam Burgess and Logan Chandler touched down before the interval, with replacement kicker Jack Browne adding a penalty to make it 13-0.

The weather deteriorated after the break, but TJs improved, Tomasi Biutiviti scoring after five minutes and Jack Mutch converting.

Liam Rankin later added two tries and Mutch one conversion, though in the last 15 minutes the home side did well to shut Reigatians out.

"It was tough. Light drizzly rain and wind are probably the worst conditions you can play in," Dankert said. "It makes the ball and the ground slippery and it's not conducive to flowing rugby."

The news Hove had won meant any celebrations would be put on hold, though Dankert said: "They're not in our minds at all, we're just focusing on what we're trying to achieve."

Asked, however, if the squad would be allowed a small celebration if they do clinch the title, Dankert replied: "No, to be honest, it'll probably be a large one. At this level of rugby it's still all about enjoyment. This would be the first of our goals for this year, so it's important to reward yourselves."

Wells prepared for Norton battle

Tunbridge Wells v Norton Sports

KICK-OFF 3PM AT CULVERDEN STADIUM

A PHYSICAL battle awaits Tunbridge Wells this afternoon as they welcome Norton Sports to Culverden Stadium, seeking their third consecutive home win.

The visitors' reputation as a physical side has forced Wells boss Martin Larkin to change his team accordingly, with target man Benji Agana going straight into the side having recovered from a hamstring injury.

Wells have scored four goals in each of their last two home games, although Larkin was far from happy with his team's first-half display against Erith Town last Saturday.

Leading 2-0 at the break, Wells went on to win 4-2 but the manager blasted his players at half-time after a lethargic opening half-hour.

"I was very pleased with the result but not pleased with the performance," he said. "We scored two goals before half-time but I was still very angry and I didn't let them get away with it. It certainly had an effect, particularly on [strikers] Mike Lord and Jon Pilbeam, who were much better in the second-half."

Pilbeam fired Wells ahead but they had goalkeeper Michel Czanner to thank after the Slovakian pulled off a superb save to keep out Kevin George's penalty.

Andy McMath scored immediately before and after the interval with Lord making it 4-0, rendering Erith's two late goals little more than consolation.

Larkin praised the efforts of Maidstone United loanee Keelan Mooney, who set up three of the four goals and is looking for more of the same against Norton today.

He said: "It's a game we feel we can win if we play as we did against Sevenoaks and in the second-half against Erith. We need the physical element Benji provides but if we can get the ball down and play then we will – we need to move them around the pitch."

Charlie Sharman and Nick Graham return to the squad after missing through illness seven days ago but Tom Davey is again absent due to work commitments.

While Norton have spent most of the season in the lower reaches of the Kent League, their form on the road has been respectable, including a 2-1 win at Hythe Town.

Picture: NICK DUNGAN

BRACE: Andy McMath was on target during the win against Erith Town last Saturday

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05 55 2.0 Td4 Freestyle 5 dr Auto Tonga Green with Black Alcantara interior 37000 Miles, Alloys, CD £10995
06 06 2.0 TD4 Adventurer 5 dr Man Tonga Green with Black interior 36240 Miles, Alloys, A/C £11995

FREELANDER 2
07 07 2.2 TD4 SE 5 dr Auto Zermatt Silver with Scuba Visa interior 48000 Miles, Alloys, Sat Nav £18995
09 09 2.2 TD4e XS 5 dr Man Zermatt Silver with Ebony Black Visa interior 5373 Miles, 17" Alloys £23912
09 59 2.2 TD4e XS 5 dr Man Bali Blue with Almond Visa int 6648 Miles, 18" Alloys, Start/Stop system £26995

DISCOVERY
07 07 Discovery 3 TDV6 GS 5 dr Man Buckingham Blue with Ebony Black interior 33500 Miles £20995
07 07 Discovery 3 TDV6 HSE 5 dr Auto Ebony Black with Ebony Black interior 25000 Miles £29995
08 58 Discovery 3 TDV6 HSE 5 dr Auto Zermatt Silver with Ebony Black interior 25308 Miles, Nav £33716
08 08 Discovery 3 TDV6 HSE 5 dr Auto Zermatt Silver with Ebony Black interior 17408 Miles, Nav £34995

DISCOVERY 4
09 59 Discovery 4 3.0 TDV6 HSE 5 dr Auto Galaway Green with Almond Premium interior 5000 Miles, Alloys £46995
09 59 Discovery 4 3.0 TDV6 HSE 5 dr Auto Nara Bronze with Almond Premium int, 4489 Miles, 19" Alloys £48913

RANGE ROVER SPORT
07 07 2.7 TDV6 HSE 5 dr Auto Stormoway Grey with Alpaca interior 24123 Miles, 19" Alloys £32713
07 57 3.6 TDV8 HSE 5 dr Auto Java Black with Ebony Black interior 21924 Miles, 19" Alloys, Climate £36995
08 08 3.6 TDV8 HSE 5 dr Auto Rimini Red with Alpaca interior 6580 Miles, 19" Alloys £41917
09 59 3.6 TDV8 HSE 5 dr Auto Stormoway Grey with Ebony Black interior, 6512 Miles, Climate £57995

RANGE ROVER
07 07 3.6 TDV8 Vogue 5 dr Auto Stormoway Grey with Jet Oxford interior 69876 Miles £34995
09 09 3.6 TDV8 Vogue 5 dr Auto Zermatt Silver with Sand Oxford interior 5307 Miles, 19" Alloys £53995

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